

SERVING THE CHURCH This Week	SERVING THE CHURCH Next Week	
Liturgist: Jackie Koch	Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse	
Ushers: Jackie Koch Linda Stenhouse	Ushers: Jackie Koch Linda Stenhouse	
Elder of the Month		
For November: Ronnie Storch, 864-627-8583 (H); 864-254-8861 (cell)		
SESSION MEMBERS		
<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Barb Daugherty	Linda Stenhouse	Barb Daugherty
Bill Marshall (NS)	Jackie Koch	Bill Marshall NS
Ronnie Storch	Candie Vaitkevicius	Linda Marshall



2 Cents-A-Meal

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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 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.

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Simpsonville Presbyterian Church
 Simpsonville, SC

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

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Dec. 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome, announcements

Prayers and Concerns

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch has office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.—Noon. For an appointment, please call the Church office.

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 "Savior of the Nations, Come!" arr. Jarrell

*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP Jackie Koch, Liturgist

Leader: Christ is coming!

People: We will keep awake!

Leader: Christ is coming!

People: We will be ready!

Leader: Christ is coming! He will gather his people from the ends of the earth.

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

*OPENING HYMN: #263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: Linda Marshall

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Hector & Susan Medina

RESPONSE: Advent Song (verse 1 and refrain) (bulletin insert)

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 judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace during 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.

Friends and family are welcome. A sign-up sheet is located on the back table. Please bring a wrapped, unsigned gift for each attendee in your group.

This year we will again have a **MITTEN AND SCARF TREE** which will be up in the Narthex on December 3 and 10. The donations will be sent to the Robert E. Cashion Elementary School.

STEWARDSHIP: The 2024 pledge card communication packet that you received this past week or so contains a budget summary supporting our plan to continue with Stated Supply into the new year. As we shared in our congregational meeting, due to high interest rates, we are targeting to retire our current Sanctuary loan by the end of Q1/2024. Through this, your financial support for current operations is critical. After you prayerfully consider and complete your 2024 Faith Promise, you may return it to the office (attention Bill Marshall) or place it in the offering plate any Sunday.

2023 YEAR END GIVING: As you review your 2023 giving status, please consider a year end gift to the church. If you are mailing in your gift, please have it post marked by Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, or earlier to be considered as a 2023 gift for tax purposes. You can also leave your gift at the church office by Dec. 31 with attention to Bill Marshall. If you have any questions, please contact Bill at 864-230-5268. If you are considering a gift of stock, please contact Bill directly and no later than Dec. 11 as arrangements will need to be made to liquidate the stock and turn it into a taxable gift by Dec. 31. Unless otherwise designated, all year end gifts will be applied to retiring our Sanctuary loan.

Coming Next Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent):

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11/Mark 8:31-36

Sermon: "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All"

LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jean Kirkland, Bill Marshall (PA); Sue Marshall's mother, Linda Moseley (granddaughter of Jean Kirkland); Kitty Shealy, the Vaitkevicius family; Marilyn Hastings (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Jessica Marshall (daughter-in-law of Bill & Linda); Everett (sister of Donnett); Bob Marshall (Bill Marshall (PA)'s father); ; Nicole Plante; the Ramsdell family (family of Ronnie); Hector & Susan Medina; Scott Hatfield (son-in-law of Candie & Joe); Dixie Suit (sister-in-law of Kitty Shealy); the family of Helen Guthrie; Roger Edney (relative of Barb & Roger Daugherty). Do not hesitate to call or email the Church Office (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, sugar, snack cakes and cookies. 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.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Dec. 8: Congregation Christmas Gathering (see write-up for details)
- Dec. 9: Greenville Chorale Christmas Concert—see poster in Narthex
- Dec. 17: Lessons & Carols—joint service
- Dec. 24: Morning worship @ 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 p.m.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available on the table in the Narthex.

LEGACY MEETING: The Legacy team will meet Monday, Dec. 4th, at 1:30 p.m. at the Church. All are welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS GATHERING: Today is the last day to sign up for our annual Christmas gathering this Friday, Dec. 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be having a Christmas trivia competition and a gift in addition to great food and fellowship. The main course meats (turkey and ham) will be provided; attendees are asked to bring side dishes, salads, or desserts.⁶

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

All: Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord!

Leader: The relentless grace of Jesus Christ always finds and forgives us.

All: Thanks be to our ever-seeking God!

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 #510 "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9/Mark 13:24-37

SERMON: "The End of the World as We Know It"
Rev. Dr. Mary Ann 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 on a back table in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

OFFERTORY "Prepare the Royal Highway" arr. Dengler

*The Doxology (Note: original words)

*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 #13 "Prepare the Way"

*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 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Handbuch

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 the beautiful poinsettias purchased in honor of and in memory of loved ones and special people. A list of memorials and honorees will be in the Christmas Eve morning 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: Donnett Hanson, Robbie Herd

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Barb Daugherty (12/03)