

SERVING THE CHURCH This Week	SERVING THE CHURCH Christmas Eve Morning	
Liturgist: Candie Vaitkevicius Ushers: Sharon Flesch Gail West	Liturgist: Linda Marshall Ushers: Jackie Koch Gail West	
SERVING THE CHURCH Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		
Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse Ushers: Linda Stenhouse, Jackie Koch		
Elder of the Month		
For December: Candie Vaitkevicius, 864-631-1010(H); 630-247-9507 (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



Cover Art:
Provided by Google Images



Sunday, December 17, 2023

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

Dec. 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent/Lessons & Carols

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 “Dona Nobis Pacem” (Trans: Grant Us Peace) Choir
(Old Christmas song written in 16th or 17th century by unknown German composer)

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Candie Vaitkevicius, Liturgist

Leader: John the Baptist calls to us, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

People: This Advent, may we turn to the light of Christ.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it!

People: In faith and hope, let us turn and worship God!

***OPENING HYMN: #2 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

CHOIR HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: Gail West

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Sue Seidel & Kyle Ward

RESPONSE: Advent Song (verse 3 and refrain) (bulletin insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same, for we are the church of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving

2023 IN KIND GIVING: Please have your “in kind” giving receipts and form submitted to the church office no later than Dec 31 for consideration on your 2023 tax return. In Kind forms are available from the office or on the bulletin board along the education hallway.

2023 REIMBURSEMENT RECEIPTS: If you have business receipts for 2023 (dated Dec 31 or earlier), please have them attached to the completed form and submitted to the church office by Monday, Jan 8, 2024.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HELEN GUTHRIE: There will be a Celebration of Life service for Helen Guthrie at Legacy Reserve at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19th. All are welcome to attend.

Coming Next Sunday morning (Christmas Eve morning service)

Scriptures: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26/Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: “Two Responses: One Sovereign God”

Coming Next Sunday evening:

Joint Candlelight Christmas Eve service with Lamb of God Lutheran Fellowship

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. 24: Morning worship @ 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 p.m.

Jan. 25: Spaghetti Dinner (more information to come)

Jan. 26: Fellowship dinner at Lawrence & Mary Anne Welch's

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available on the table in the Narthex.

SESSION MEETING: The Session of SPC will meet tomorrow, Dec. 18th at 1:30 p.m. at the Church.

STEWARDSHIP: The 2024 pledge card communication packet contained 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. Unless otherwise designated, all year end gifts will be applied to retiring our Sanctuary loan.

words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSONS & CAROLS (Sing verses 1 & 2 of each hymn)

Lesson One: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 Jerry Miller, LOG

Carol: Hymn #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Lesson Two: Genesis 22:15-18 Pastor Olatunde Alao, Deeper Life

Carol: Hymn #38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Lesson Three: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Bill Marshall NS, SPC

Carol: Hymn #5 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Lesson Four: Isaiah 11:1-9

Tara Richter, LOG

Carol: Hymn #50 "Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow"

Lesson Five: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Paster Peter Ariyo, Deeper Life

Carol: Hymn #31 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Lesson Six: Luke 2:1, 3-7

Sharon Flesch, SPC

Carol: Hymn #9 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Lesson Seven: Luke 2:8-20

Margaret Miller, LOG

Carol: Hymn #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Lesson Eight: Matthew 2:1-12

Bro. Daniel Salami, Deeper Life

Carol: Hymn #53 "What Child is This?"

Lesson Nine: John 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch, SPC

Carol: Hymn #56 "The First Nowell"

***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 on a back table in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

OFFERTORY "Away in a Manger" arr. Page

***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 #40 "Joy to the World"**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHOIR RESPONSE:** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (Luke 2:8-20)

POSTLUDE "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Basque carol

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 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: Lamb of God Christian Fellowship, Deeper Life Bible Church

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: None

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); 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.