

SERVING THE CHURCH

This Week

Liturgist: Candie Vaitkevicius
Ushers: Jackie Koch

SERVING THE CHURCH

Next Week

Liturgist:
Ushers:

Elder of the Month

For January: Linda Stenhouse, 864-967-7218 (H)
864-979-2863 (cell)

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2024

Linda Stenhouse
Jackie Koch
Candie Vaitkevicius

Class of 2025

Barb Daugherty
Bill Marshall NS
Linda Marshall

2 Cents-A-Meal

Next Week!

Cover Art:
Provided by Google Images



Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8:30-10:30 a.m.
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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 31, 2023

Simpsonville Presbyterian Church

Simpsonville, SC

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

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Dec. 31, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas

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 “Mary Had a Baby” arr. Sam Batt Owens Solo: Jimmy Cheeks

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP**

Candie Vaitkevicius, Liturgist

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Leader: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love

People: so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Leader: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands—

People: O prosper the work of our hands! Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN: #23 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs. 1 & 3)**

***HYMN #27 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (vs. 1 & 2)**

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER:

Reading: Linda Stenhouse

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us.

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.

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.

Coming Next Sunday:

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5/Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: “Did You See Jesus?”

Communion

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPAGHETTI DINNER. The dinner will be held on Thursday, January 25th in the Fellowship Hall. We are inviting our Food Pantry clients and residents of the Village Park apartments. Food will be served from 5:00-6:30 p.m.. Volunteers from our congregation are needed to help in several areas, including preparing food, serving food, greeting attendees, etc. A sign-up sheet is on the back table. Please lend your support for this worthy mission.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER: Rev. Dr. Mary Ann and Lawrence Welch will host the next Fellowship Dinner in their home on Friday, January 26th at 5:30 p.m. Brushetta Chicken will be the main course. Those attending are asked to bring a salad, side, or dessert. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table. Also, anyone wishing to host a dinner in their home in 2024, please sign-up on the back table.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR 2024 are located on the back table. Liturgists, Ushers, and Flower and Refreshments providers are needed. If you are able, please sign up to help. Thank you.

INSTALLATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025 SESSION MEMBERS will be held on Sunday, January 7th.

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.

As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Believe the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (refrain)

*O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!*

**HYMN #28 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (vs. 1 & 3)
Hymn # 37 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (both verses)**

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3/Luke 2:22-40

SERMON: "The Clown of God" Rev. Dr. Mary Ann 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 on a back table in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

OFFERTORY "I Wonder as I Wander" arr. John Jacob Niles

*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 #47 "Still, Still, Still" (both verses)

*HYMN # 49 "Once in Royal David's City" (vs. 1 & 4)

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE: "Go Tell It On the Mountain" (refrain)

*Go tell it on the mountain
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

POSTLUDE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Music by Felix Mendelssohn

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 given by Linda Stenhouse. Thank you.

REFRESHMENTS today are given by Jackie Koch. 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: Marie Lansche, Ron & Judy Lundy

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Rpgger Pryor (01/02), Alice Grooms (01/03), Bill Marshall PA (01/03)

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.

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 January are cereals. As always, we are grateful for all donations.