

**SERVING THE CHURCH**

**This Week**

Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse  
Ushers: Linda Marshall  
Bill Marshall (NS)

**SERVING THE CHURCH**

**Next Week**

Liturgist: Linda Marshall  
Ushers: Ronnie Storch  
Gail West

**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**

**Please Donate Today!**

Cover Art:  
Provided by Google Images



Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
510 East Curtis Street \* Simpsonville, SC 29681 \* (864) 963-8854  
[www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com) E-mail: [office@simpsonvillepres.com](mailto: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, January 7, 2024**

*Simpsonville Presbyterian Church*

Simpsonville, SC

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

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 7, 2024

Baptism of the Lord

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 "March of the Kings" arr. Rocherolle

**\*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Linda Stenhouse, Liturgist

Leader: God spoke the creative Word into the formless void.

**People: The cosmos cries, "Glory!"**

Leader: From the wilderness, God brought forth new life and liberation.

**People: The plants and animals that inhabit the wild places cry "Glory!"**

Leader: A messenger in the wilderness brings good news.

**People: God's people cry, "Glory!"**

Leader: In baptism, we are united to God through Jesus Christ.

**All: With all of creation, we cry "Glory!"**

**\*OPENING HYMN: #492 "Baptized in Water"**

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

**CONFESSION OF OUR SIN** (unison prayer)

Creating God, we cannot look at our lives, our communities, or the world around us without seeing the fractures and brokenness that reflect the reality of sin. You created the earth and called it good, but it now groans, awaiting redemption and re-creation under the weight of our greed, abuse and carelessness. You created humanity in your image, and called us very good, but we have ignored the image of God in each other. We have created, maintained, and benefitted from unjust systems built on artificial divisions. You poured out your love in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and how to love, but we continue to

distributed to the Village Park residents on Saturday, Jan. 20th. If you would like to help with this, meet at the Church at 1:00 p.m.

Please pray for the success of this new outreach mission to be a benefit to those who attend.

**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.

Coming Next Sunday:

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-10/John 1:43-51

Sermon: "Can Anything Good Come from Nazareth?"

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK:** Bill & Linda Marshall, Bill & Sue Marshall

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** Robbie Herd (01/11)

### 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); Everett (sister of Donnett); Bob Marshall (Bill Marshall (PA)'s father); Scott Hatfield (son-in-law of Candie & Joe); Hazel Cain (aunt of Linda Marshall); 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](mailto: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.

**VIDEO RECORDINGS:** Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: [www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://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

**SESSION MEETING:** The Session of SPC will meet tomorrow, Jan. 8th, at 10:30 a.m. at the Church.

**CARDS:** Join us for card playing Wed. Jan. 10th, at 11 a.m. at the Church. Bring your own lunch.

**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

**make our own path, follow our own desires, and neglect to love others are Christ loves us. Lord, have mercy. Rend the heavens. Re-create us now. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: The heavens part, the waters swirl and the dove descends, reminding us that we, too, are God's beloved children.

**All: We are covered by God's grace and forgiven in Jesus Christ. Amen!**

**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 #513 "Let Us Break Bread Together"**

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 1:1-5/Mark 1:4-11

SERMON: "Did You See Jesus?" 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 "Break Thou the Bread of Life" arr. Larson

### \*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

### 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.

**INSTALLATION OF ELDERS—CLASS OF 2025:** Linda Marshall, Bill Marshall NS, Barb Daugherty.

**\*CLOSING HYMN #68 "What Star is This, with Beams So Bright?"**

\*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 "As With Gladness Men of Old" Kocher

**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](http://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 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.