

**SERVING THE CHURCH****This Week**

Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse  
 Ushers: Gail West  
 Steve Brawley

**SERVING THE CHURCH****Next Week**

Liturgist: Linda Marshall  
 Ushers: Bill Marshall NS  
 Linda Marshall

**Elder of the Month**

For March: Candie Vaitkevicius: 864-631-1010 (Home)  
 630-247-9507 (Cell)

**SESSION MEMBERS**Class of 2025

Barb Daugherty  
 Bill Marshall NS  
 Linda Marshall

Linda Stenhouse—Clerk of Session

Class of 2026

Bill Marshall PA  
 Candie Vaitkevicius  
 Jackie Koch

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
 so are my ways higher than your ways,  
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Isaiah 55:9**

DailyVerses.net

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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, March 23, 2025**

*Simpsonville Presbyterian Church*

**Simpsonville, SC**

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

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

Welcome, announcements

Prayers and Concerns

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch has office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-Noon. Please call 864-963-8854 to make an appointment.

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

"Man of Sorrows"

arr. Page

**\*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP**

Linda Stenhouse, Liturgist

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

**People: My flesh faints for you as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

Leader: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

**People: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.**

Leader: So I will bless you as long as I live;

**All: I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #281 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives. We confess that we have focused on others' shortcomings instead of reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: God Speaks through the prophet Isaiah: my thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways.

## 438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,

Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.  
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** A congregational meeting will be held next Sunday, March 30th immediately following worship. Annual Report 2024 booklets are given out today to give the congregation the opportunity to read it before the meeting next Sunday. Please be sure to take one per family.

**CARDS:** Please join us for card playing on Wednesday, March 26th, at 11 a.m. at the Church. Bring your own lunch.

**CONCERT:** On Saturday, March 29th at 3 p.m., the Upstate Men's Choir will perform at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Please see the poster in the Narthex for additional information.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** As is our tradition, Easter lilies will decorate our sanctuary on Easter. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one or special person, the cost is \$10 per lily. You may elect to make a donation only or to take your flower(s) home on Easter Sunday. An order form is inserted in today's bulletin. Place your form and payment either in the offering plate or give to Jackie. April 6th is the last day to order. A list of honorees will be in the Easter bulletin.

**A CONGREGATIONAL NIGHT OUT** is being planned for Friday, April 11th. We will have dinner in a local restaurant (restaurant TBD) and then attend a show at the Younts Center: "His Life" a musical dramatization of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Dinner will be pay as you go; tickets for the show, which begins at 7:30 p.m., are \$22.00. Jackie will purchase the tickets; make checks payable to Simpsonville Presbyterian Church. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table. Friends and family are welcome. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 23rd.

**NOTE:** Boy Scout Troop 700 will use the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 29th for an Eagle Court of Honor and reception.

**PLEASE remember to sign up for pulpit flowers, refreshments, liturgist, and usher. Thank you.**

**COMING NEXT SUNDAY:**

Scriptures: Joshua 5:9-12/Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon: Hymn Sing

**People: For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways.**

Leader: Let us find peace in God's ways of mercy and grace knowing that we are forgiven.

**All: Amen.**

**RESPONSE: "We Are Forgiven"**

*We are forgiven, We are forgiven,  
Thanks be to God, Thanks be to God.  
We are forgiven, We are forgiven,  
Thanks be to God, Thanks be to God.*

Hymn #298 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Isaiah 55:1-9/1 Corinthians 10:1-13

SERMON: "Tested Beyond Your Strength" Rev. Dr. Mary Anne 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 in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

OFFERTORY "Lenten Meditation" arr. Loree

**\*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** "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (Bulletin pg. 7)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE:** "May the Grace of Christ Our Savior"

*May the grace of Christ our Savior, and the Father's boundless love,  
With the Holy Spirit's favor, rest upon us from above.  
Thus may we abide in union with each other and the Lord.  
And possess, in sweet communion, joys which earth cannot afford.*

POSTLUDE "My Song Forever shall Record" Bortniansky

**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.

**FLOWERS** today are given by Gail West. 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.

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK:** Lena Staschak, Alice Grooms

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** None

**LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jan Johnson; Lawrence Welch; Jo Klein; Dixon Caldwell (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Bill Marshall NS; Alice Grooms; Cory and children (friends of Brenda Stenhouse); Conner Dixon (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Sue Marshall's mother; Tina Minnich (daughter of Candie & Joe); Beverly Sullivan (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Everett (sister of Donnett); Debra Datko; the Shelf family; 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 March are varieties of dried beans and bags of rice. 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.

**BIBLE STUDY :** The Final Days by Matt Rawle

Bible study will continue on Sunday mornings during Lent (March 9 – April 13). We will begin promptly at 9:15am and will end by 10:10. The study will be led by Barb Daugherty and Bill Marshall (NS). If you did not sign up and would like to attend all or some of the sessions, please feel free to join us.

**TOP GOLF FUNDRAISER:** A fundraising event for Isaiah 117 is planned for April 23rd at Top Golf on Pelham Rd. More information will be provided as it is released.