

<b>SERVING THE CHURCH This Week</b>	<b>SERVING THE CHURCH Next Week</b>
Liturgist: Candie Vaitkevicius	Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse
Sound:	Sound:
Ushers: Jan Kross Joe Vaitkevicius	Ushers: Jan Kross Linda Stenhouse

**Elder of the Month**  
For November: Ronnie Storch, 864-627-8583 (H); 864-254-8861 (cell)

<b>SESSION MEMBERS</b>		
<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Linda Stenhouse	Barb Daugherty	Linda Stenhouse
Jerry Kross	Bill Marshall (NS)	Jackie Koch
Jackie Koch	Ronnie Storch	Candie Vaitkevicius



Cover Art:  
Google Images



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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.



*Remembering and honoring the past; Moving forward in unity and grace.*

**December 11, 2022**

**Simpsonville Presbyterian Church**  
**Simpsonville, SC**

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

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Dec. 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch has office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. — Noon. Call the Church office 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 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" arr. Purify

**\*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Candie Vaitkevicius, Liturgist  
Leader: Into the dry and desolate places of our lives, God brings salvation.

**People: The desert rejoices and blossoms, the wilderness teems with life.**

Leader: Sorrow and sighing will flee:

**People: let us come into God's presence with singing!**

**\*OPENING HYMN #8 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: Gail West

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Bill & Linda Marshall

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

**Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are the ones with privilege, ignoring and harming those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us and refocus us, that we may follow your way of life and truth. Amen.**

**SESSION MEETING:** The Session of SPC will meet Monday evening, Dec. 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

**CARDS:** Join us for card playing on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, at 11 a.m. at the Church. Bring your own lunch.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** will meet on Thursday, Dec. 15th, at 11 a.m. at the Church.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** We have an assortment of daily devotionals for Advent on the table in the entryway. Please choose one to take home and use for your personal devotions.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** Christmas Eve worship will be held at 7 p.m. on December 24th and Christmas Day service will be at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Day, December 25th.

NEXT SUNDAY:

Scripture: Service of Lessons and Carols

**HAT & MITTEN TREE:** Today is the last day to donate to the “Hats and Mittens” tree. The donations will be sent for the students of Simpsonville Elementary School. Thank you to all who donated.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S “OUTREACH” OFFERING.** Thank you to everyone who donated to this special offering. The contributions will be used to help local charities or people in need within our community.

**DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** The December fellowship dinner was held at Jan Johnson’s house last evening. Great food and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you, Jan!

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** Envelopes will be inserted in next week’s bulletin (Dec. 18th) for this special offering which provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

**STEWARDSHIP:** The 2023 pledge card communication packet that you received this past week contains a budget summary supporting our plan to continue with Stated Supply into the new year. As we shared last Sunday, we will also be assessing our overall financial status in the first six months of the year with the hope of taking our next step, in planning a move from Stated Supply to a more permanent Pastoral status. Timing of this move will depend heavily on our ability to retire most or all our current mortgage (\$75,600), investment income performance and the result of our 2023 pledge campaign. In all this, your financial support is critical. After you prayerfully consider and complete your 2023 Faith Promise, you may return it to the office (attention Bill Marshall) or place it in the offering plate any Sunday.

**2022 YEAR END GIVING:** As you review your 2022 giving status, please consider a year end gift to the church. If you are mailing in your gift, please have it post marked by Dec 31, 2022, or earlier to be considered as a 2022 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 14 as arrangements will need to be made to liquidate the stock and turn it into a taxable gift by Dec 31. 6

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: There is nothing and no one that is too far gone for God to redeem.

**All: There is no land too parched that God cannot make streams of living water flow.**

Leader: Beloved, we are forgiven!

**All: Alleluia! Thanks be to 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 #339 “Be Thou My Vision”**

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 35:1-10/Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON “Finding Our Place at the Manger: Joseph”

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.**

PASTOR'S PRAYER AND 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 #464 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

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 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Basque Carol

**WELCOME TO SIMPSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!** 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** are the lovely poinsettias purchased in memory of and in honor of loved ones and special friends. A list of the honorees will be inserted in next week's 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:** Allan & Teresa Castleberry, Kitty Shealy

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** None

**LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jean Kirkland, Sue Marshall's mother, Barbara; Linda Marksberry (friend of Darrell & Roger); the Cash family (friends of Darrell and Roger); Michael Kolmer (Sue Marshall's brother); Bob Marshall (Bill Marshall (PA)'s father; Hector & Susan Medina; Robert Polenta & Keith Purser (friends of Jackie Koch); Rev. Small's daughter Madeline; Tina Vaitkevicius; Dan Mills (brother of Barb Daugherty—Missionary to Papau New Guinea); Ivy Bertuzzi; Dixie Suit (sister-in-law of Kitty Shealy); the family of Jen Gibson (relatives of Barb & Roger Daugherty; 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 December are Chicken Noodle and Vegetable Soups and canned ravioli and spaghetti. As always, we are grateful for all donations.