

SERVING THE CHURCH This Week	SERVING THE CHURCH Next Week	
Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse Sound: Ushers: Jan Kross Linda Stenhouse	Liturgist: Jerry Kross Sound: Ushers: Jan Kross Linda Stenhouse	
SERVING THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE		
Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse Users: Linda Stenhouse, Jackie Koch		
Elder of the Month For December: Jerry Kross, 864-915-3560		
SESSION MEMBERS		
<u>Class of 2022</u> Linda Stenhouse Jerry Kross Jackie Koch	<u>Class of 2023</u> Barb Daugherty Bill Marshall (NS) Ronnie Storch	<u>Class of 2024</u> Linda Stenhouse Jackie Koch Candie Vaitkevicius



4th Sunday of Advent - Love



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

Sunday, December 18, 2022

First Presbyterian Church

Simpsonville, SC

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

Cover Art:
Google Images



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The WiFi Identity is FPCS-Guest and the password to connect is Grace4all.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

* WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remain seated for a time of silent meditation as we prepare to worship God. 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 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. Herbster

*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Stenhouse, Liturgist

Leader: We stand on the cusp:

People: the promise is almost fulfilled.

Leader: We wait with bated breath:

People: the child is almost here.

Leader: We trust the well-loved story:

All: God is truly with us.

OPENING HYMN: #49 "Once in Royal David's City"

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: Jerry Kross

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Sharon Flesch & Sharon Stone

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.

People: God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.

Leader: Through this abundant love, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

IN-KIND GIVING CLOSE OUT FOR YEAR-END: If you have outstanding in-kind gifts you would like included in your 2022 giving statement, please have those receipts and the accompanying form requesting they be recorded as in-kind, completed and submitted to the church office by Wednesday Dec 28, 2022.

2022 REIMBURSEMENT CLOSEOUT: If you have any receipts supporting church business that you will be requesting reimbursement for, please have the receipts and the accompanying reimbursement form completed, signed and in the church office no later than Wednesday, Dec 28.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS: The ordination and installation of class of 2024 Session members will be held on Sunday, January 8th during worship service. Candie Vaitkevicius will be ordained and installed, and Jackie Koch and Linda Stenhouse will be reinstalled.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Christmas Eve Candlelight 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. New Year's Day service will be at our regular time of 10:30 a.m. on January 1st.

Coming Christmas Eve:

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7/Luke 2:1-14

Sermon: Beyond the Manger

Coming Next Sunday—Christmas Day:

Scripture: Isaiah 62:6-12/Luke 2:8-20

Sermon: The Gift of the Christmas Cookie

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.

VIDEO RECORDINGS: Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: www.firstpressimpsonville.com. Click on "Videos" in the menu at the top or click on the picture of a worship service in the lower right."

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Envelopes are inserted in this week's bulletin 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. Pamphlets with additional information are located on the credenza in the Narthex.

STEWARDSHIP: The 2023 pledge card communication packet contains a budget summary that supports our plan to continue with Stated Supply into the new year. As we shared at our congregational meeting, 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.

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 #5 "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lesson One: Genesis 3:8-15

Barb Daugherty

Carol: Hymn #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (vs. 1 & 2)

Lesson Two: Genesis 22:15-18

Jackie Koch

Carol: Hymn #9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1 & 2)

Lesson Three: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Gail West

Carol: Hymn #155 "Rejoice, the Lord is King" (vs. 1 & 3)

Lesson Four: Isaiah 11:1-9

Jan Kross

Carol: Hymn #48 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (vs. 1 & 2)

Lesson Five: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Sue Marshall

Carol: "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" (vs. 1 & 4)

(bulletin insert)

Lesson Six: Matthew 1:18-21

Bill Marshall ((PA)

Carol: Hymn #56 "The First Nowell" (vs. 1 & 6)

Lesson Seven: Luke 2:8-20

Linda Stenhouse

Carol: Hymn #37 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (vs. 1-2)

Lesson Eight: Matthew 2:1-11

Jerry Kross

Carol: Hymn #63 "As with Gladness Men of Old" (vs. 1 & 4)

Lesson Nine: John 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch

Carol: Hymn #41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1 & 3)

***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.

Joys and Concerns 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 "Mary, Did You Know?" arr. Smith

***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 # 15 "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"**

***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: "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

WELCOME TO FIRST 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 First Presbyterian community, we invite you to contact us through our website www.firstpressimpsonville.com, or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS are our lovely poinsettias. Please see the bulletin insert for a list of the honorees and givers.

REFRESHMENTS this week are provided 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: the Shelf family, Greg & Josie Shelton

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) about any pastoral concerns.