

## Weekly Worship

### Sunday,

#### The Lord's Day

9:00am Worship Service  
 10:05am Assembly &  
 Sunday School  
 11:00am Worship Service

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, Dec. 3

12:15 Equipped & Encouraged  
 4:30 HS Youth Scavenger Hunt

### Wednesday, Dec. 6

5:30 Stewardship, Personnel  
 & Finance Ministry

### Monday, Dec. 11

1:00 Prayers & Squares  
 6:00 Women's Christmas Party  
 6:30 Mission Ministry

### Wednesday, Dec. 13

6:00 LOGOS Christmas  
 Pageant

### Sunday, Dec. 17

Choir Christmas Cantata  
 12:00 Session Meeting

### Wednesday, Dec. 20

5:30 All Youth Christmas Party

### Friday, Dec. 22

Office Closed

### Sunday, Dec. 24

6:00 Candlelight Communion  
 Service

### Tuesday, Dec. 26

Office Closed

### Sunday, Dec. 31

College Student Sunday

Pastor

Timothy Scoonover

Director of Spiritual  
 Formation  
 David Baruch

Editor

Sally Harvey

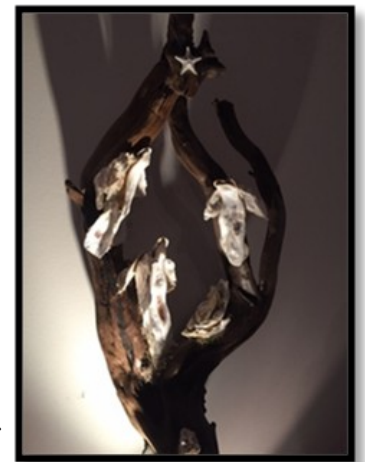
**“The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.”**

**John 1:14 – *The Message* by Eugene Peterson**

Our family loves nativities. We've even started our own little crèche collection over the years. A couple are more traditional, some are more abstract. One a friend brought back from a mission trip to Africa. Another, made out of a coconut, my brother gave us from his work in Haiti. So you can image our delight when we learned of the annual Mepkin Abbey Crèche Festival. It's a yearly tradition for our family now. The two pictures I've included are from local artists, and I'd like you to notice something... just how "local" they are.

The use of Low Country resources captures me: oyster shells, drift wood, moss, palm fronds, etc. The artists use elements from our own local area to depict the time that Jesus became "local." I love it! This art invites us to ponder the beauty of Christ's incarnation.

Jesus is local. He walked this earth at a particular time, in a particular place, with particular hair, and particular fingerprints. It might be a stretch to call him a "townie," but maybe he was. I think he had a favorite food, a special view he enjoyed, and a "watering hole" he'd frequent. He told stories, laughed, and celebrated friendship. He mingled with outcasts, challenged religious powers, and dined with some "questionable" people. *The point here is that God moved into the neighborhood.* Jesus became local.



The corrupt status and questionable demographics of the neighborhood didn't keep Jesus from coming. In fact, the messiness of the neighborhood is the very reason he came. That fact that Jesus becomes local means there is...

No place too far for his love to reach,  
 No tragedy too dark for his light to penetrate,  
 No life too messy for his grace to redeem,  
 No heart too corrupt for his Spirit to enter.

You are likely to see a lot of nativities over the next four weeks. I hope they cause us pause and ponder. This Advent, may we see with fresh eyes the Christ who became purposefully local and welcome him as he draws near to us.

In Christ, Pastor Timothy

# ***December Special Services***

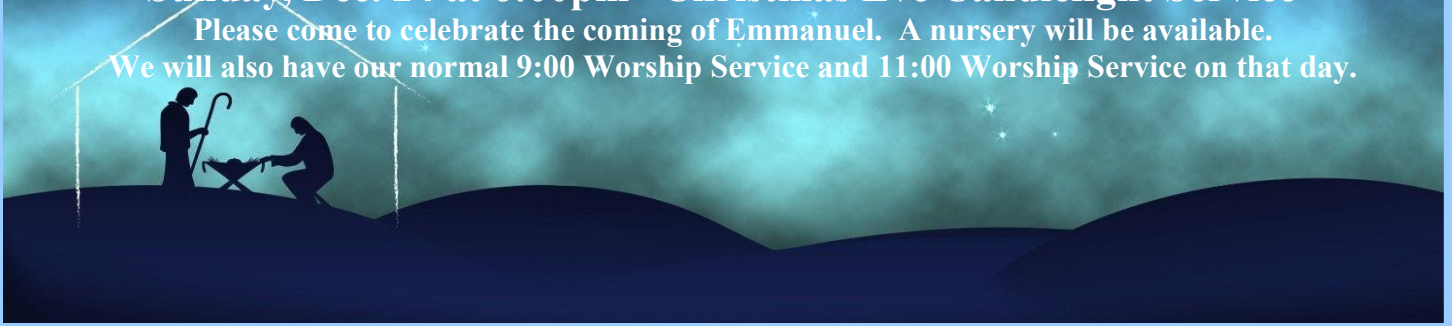
## **Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11:00am Choir Cantata**

The choir will present the annual Christmas Cantata during the 11am morning worship.  
(no 9:00 Service)

The choir will present the cantata, *Sing Joy to All the World*, December 17 during 11am worship. The overriding theme of this inspiring Christmas work by Lloyd Larson is joy. It celebrates the promise that joy comes to those who wait; that following the long dark night, the breaking of dawn brings joy for the new day. The music incorporates original melodies with familiar carols in a work that ranges from contemplative to celebratory.

## **Sunday, Dec. 24 at 6:00pm “Christmas Eve Candlelight Service”**

Please come to celebrate the coming of Emmanuel. A nursery will be available.  
We will also have our normal 9:00 Worship Service and 11:00 Worship Service on that day.



## **Presbyterian Women's Christmas Party**

**Monday, Dec. 11 at 6:00pm**

Bring your favorite finger foods and a \$5 gift to exchange.

All women and young girls are invited.

Please come and enjoy some fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

For more information, contact Mickey Smith at 843-899-6420.

## **Children's Christmas Pageant**

**Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:00pm**

The children have been practicing for their Christmas program. Afterwards, we'll have refreshments. The congregation is asked to bring finger foods and the church will provide drinks.



## Intentionality in Mission: Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Ultimately the Great Commission waits for no committee, congregation, or pastor. You don't set aside time in your schedule to follow Christ. You don't set aside time in your schedule to "go on mission." Mary didn't set aside time in her schedule to carry, give birth to, and raise the Son of God.

Jesus didn't hunker down in front of His disciples with a clipboard and say, "Okay guys, today we're going to visit a leper colony and tomorrow we'll head over to the cribs to minister to some prostitutes. I'm thinking next week we'll head east and hopefully find some blind people. I know you've been wanting to free some demon-possessed people but we're going to hold off until after Passover."

I'd like to share a brief reflection. Abby Palmer had just turned nineteen when we went to Mexico in July. She is no stranger to work and did not have to go to Mexico to learn how. At half my age, she understands twice what I do about loving people. I watched her seek out the gifts God had given each person individually to be used and enjoyed communally. Every man, woman, and child she saw was broken like her, and fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God like her. No one had to remind her. It wasn't intentional. It was effortless. They knew she wouldn't go back to WiFi and air conditioning and Pottery Barn and talk about how good it felt to help "those people."

Abby is inspired by her mother, Linda Palmer. You've heard of Linda; you've seen her name week after week in the bulletin. She is so much more than an injured woman in pain, fighting with insurance and workers' comp. You want to hear some stories about being an instrument of God's grace both home and abroad? Ask Linda.

It's not that we don't reach out. It's the fact that we congratulate ourselves and each other when we do. We talk a lot about the early church and how we can be more like them. A popular question is, "What would that look like?" but I think we already know what it would look like. We just don't like it. Now, imagine Paul sitting among us in worship services and committee meetings, skimming the countless books, commentaries, and buzzwords that seek to define and formulate mission (some of it might even resemble his own example). Let's ask Paul as if he were here: "What does *this* look like?" Imagine he answers the question with another question. "So... did Pentecost make it over here?"

I confess that I am not inspired by position, numbers, programs, or slogans. I am far more inspired by these words allegedly spoken beside an open grave in 1572. "Here lies a man who neither flattered nor feared any flesh."

The man in the grave was John Knox, known to us as the father of Presbyterianism. I have to wonder how he would answer the same question we posed to Paul a minute ago.

In the love of Jesus Christ, Kyndra Buitenhuis

### Minutes in a Minute

On Monday, November 20th, the session of First Presbyterian Church:

- Opened with prayer led by Timothy Scoonover
- Examined and received the new class of officers: Marie Bowles, Rick Ollic, and Rin Page (Elders) and Kay Colley, David Harris, and Frannie Woods (Deacons).
- Transferred DJ and Emily Harrison's membership to First Presbyterian, Charlotte
- Approved the minutes from 10/6/17
- Received updates and reports from all ministry teams and the pastor
- Closed with pastoral prayer for the needs of church and community

Our next session meeting will be Sunday, December 17, following the 11am Worship Service.



## 2017 Christmas Food for Those in Need



We started this outreach in 2010 with an emphasis on providing Berkeley Seniors Meals on Wheels program a box of food that would last several days for their most needy people. This program has grown quite a bit from that modest beginning.

Last year, due to the kindness and generosity of this congregation, we were able to furnish over 130 bags of food. Each bag contained enough food for several days. We are hoping to exceed last year's total. If, after your

church pledge, you can donate for this, we and the recipients would appreciate it. Please contact Jerry Stuckey (899-4477) or me, Hugh Smith (899-6420).

## *Worship the King A Concert Presented By The Moultrie Singers*

The Moultrie Singers will perform a beautiful Christmas concert Monday, Dec. 4 at 7:30pm at Moncks Corner United Methodist Church. They will feature many Christmas favorites, plus excerpts from Handel's Messiah.

Concert is free and donations are accepted.  
Several of our choir members are singing in the program.

If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas, please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate or place on the secretary's desk along with your check. Flowers are \$10.00 each. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and designated Poinsettias.  
Deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 13



Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers are for 9:00 Service \_\_\_\_\_ or 11:00 Service \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Paid \_\_\_\_\_

## **Where We Are, and Where We Are Going!**

### *A Reflection of 2017*

Hello Parents and Friends of First Presbyterian Church:

It has been a fun year with the youth! We have had everything from crazy lock-ins, to ski trips, to whitewater rafting and more.

This year we have seen several new students become involved with the youth program and grow closer in their relationship with Christ. Our students have really stepped up in sharing their faith with others, and it has been a blessing to witness. This year we have been studying the book of Romans and have currently taken a break. We are in a new series called, "I Once Was Lost." We are working with students helping them to understand their own faith and how to share it with others more effectively through relational evangelism. 1 Peter 3:15, "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." It has been so encouraging to see our junior high and senior high wrestle with some of these tough questions, being ready to give an account of their faith in Jesus Christ.

We have also begun to participate in more service work with our students, helping them to realize that sharing Jesus with others is not just with their words, and relationships, but also with their hands. We have completed several yard clean up projects and begun a food drive for hurricane relief. We have many more exciting service trips planned for 2018. This was an aspect in our program that was lacking and I think we are headed in the right direction.

The three aspects of our youth program are Head, Heart, and Hands:

**Head:** We help our students understand the gospel in depth. I think we have had tremendous growth in the program in this area and are continuing to grow. I have seen students who can now truly articulate what "grace" means to them as they have received that in Christ. *This was our focus on the first year of my arriving at First Presbyterian.*

**Heart:** This is the worship component, seeing students love God with every aspect of their being not just with music. We have made great strides to worship with our students in multiple areas including "testimony" and "music." We have worship music now at different events in ways that was never done before with this program.

*We focused on adding these components in my second year at First Presbyterian.*

**Hands:** This was the area that was lacking the most, and I believe we are heading in the right direction with more service projects planned. Not doing service for service's sake, but doing it in a way to communicate the gospel to those who are truly hurting and in need of healing. An idea we will wrestle with is how to bring "justice" into the world via the gospel message. *This will be our focus going into my 3rd and 4th year here at First Presbyterian.*

The mission of our program is to, "Make Disciples of the next generation reaching UP to God (Heart), IN to one another (Head), and OUT to the world (Hands). I truly believe we are beginning to become a youth program that is making holistic disciples who are living into these three areas of their faith.

It has been a blessing to serve your youth in this 2017 year! Grace and Peace, David Baruch

*Dates to remember for the rest of 2017:*

**All Youth Christmas Party December 20th: We will be meeting in The Well at 5:30pm and will have our traditional games, food and snacks. We will also be going out as a group to Christmas Carol to surrounding neighborhoods!**

*I would like to thank Scott Shepherd for his help in getting pine limbs off the co-op lines at my house.*

*God Bless, Arnetta Ackerman*



Dear Church Friends,  
Some of you may be going through your wardrobe as the season is changing now for cooler weather. Please do not forget the Teen and Older Closet that runs a give-a-way of clothes during the Hands of Christ event. Last August was our first year and we are planning on another give away next year. We do have storage at The Well and you can check with me as to where it is. Please box up your items and mark them for The Teen and Up Closet. We gave away to high school youth and adults. They took summer items, jeans, sweaters, coats, shoes, handbags, men's shirts (dress and polo look), women's work clothes and scarves. It was a nice event. I wish to thank the youth who helped me with the distribution. Taylor and Morgan Hood were my right hands. Many others helped unload and load my car. I really appreciate you all with your big hearts and ready smiles.

Sincerely, Neva Peagler

### **Equipped and Encouraged Sunday, Dec. 3 at 12:15 (Lunch Included)**

This Sunday we will be having our annual Equipped and Encouraged at 12:15PM. Lunch will be provided! This will be a time where we can gather, hear stories from our classes, and be equipped as we move forward in the work the Lord is calling us to.

We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall following the 11am service. Hope you all can make it.

Blessings in Christ, David Baruch,  
Director of Spiritual Formation

### **December Food Pantry Dry Cereal & Mac & Cheese**

### **December**

- 2 Meredith Bell
- 3 Jeff Baumann  
Bryant Davis  
Rica Gause  
T.C. Guerry  
Karen Quick
- 5 Roland Nettles
- 6 Kathy Baumann  
Michael Bayless  
Christopher Ollic
- 8 Ashley Huggins  
Hampton Weathers  
Davis Weathers
- 9 Heather Boyd  
Codi Orvin
- 10 Justin Robinette  
Bill Shipley
- 11 Andy Ferez
- 12 Libby Nelson  
Charles Matthews II
- 12 John Nelson
- 13 Kevin Wadford
- 15 Micah Scoonover
- 16 Pam Brogdon
- 17 Christopher Wilson
- 18 Eric Buitenhuis
- 19 Nancy Stuckey
- 21 Cadie Gooch
- 22 Melissa Anne Jackson
- 23 Cyndy Britt  
Arthur Devereux
- 30 Arianna Baugh



### **2017 Financial Report**

	Year to date through	
	11/29/2017	Annual Budget
Revenue	\$ 412,488	\$ 422,656
Expenditures		
Personnel	\$ 226,059	\$ 252,456
Operations	\$ 96,305	\$ 102,050
Missions	\$ 22,401	\$ 38,800
Education, Nurture & Pastoral Care	\$ 17,013	\$ 19,750
Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship	\$ 8,267	\$ 9,600
Total Expenditures	\$ 372,038	\$ 422,656

### **December Ushers**

**9:00— Miller White**




**11:00—David & Jane Harris**

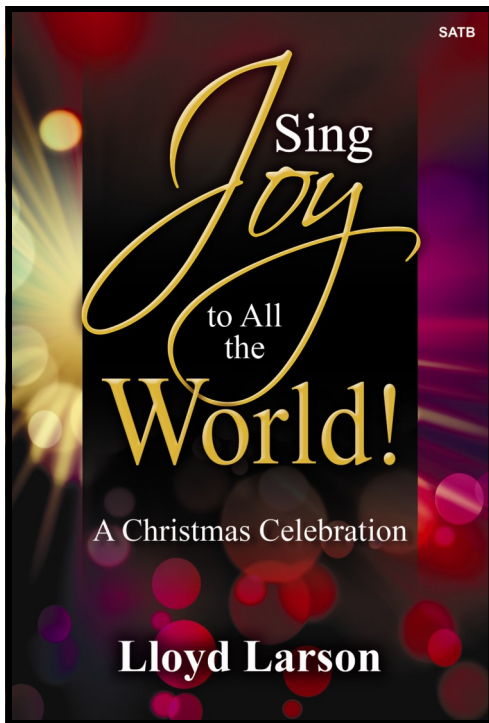
**Ken Coffey**

**John Spencer**



# December 2017 First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:05 Assembly &amp; Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p>					<p> <b>YOUTH LOCK-IN</b> 9:00PM—Middle School Lock-in</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 <i>communion</i> 12:15 Equipped &amp; Encouraged 4:30 HS Scavenger Hunt 5:00 Missional Small Grp</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 10:00 Staff Meeting  6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp</p>	<p>6 11:00 Prayer Group 3:30 LOGOS 5:30 SPF Ministry 5:30 Middle School Youth 6:00 Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11 1:00 Prayers &amp; Squares 6:00 Women's Christmas Party 6:30 Mission Ministry</p>	<p>12 10:00 Staff Meeting Presbytery Meeting 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp</p>	<p>13 11:00 Prayer Group 3:30 LOGOS 5:30 Middle School Youth <b>6:00 LOGOS</b> <b>Christmas Pageant</b></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>5:00 Missional Small Grp 6:00 HS Youth</p>				David Baruch Vacation		
<p>17 (No 9:00 Service)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10:00 Staff Meeting  6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp</p>	<p>20 11:00 Prayer Group  <b>5:30 All Youth</b> <b>Christmas Party</b>  6:00 Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p><b>Choir Christmas Cantata</b> 12:00 Session Meeting 5:00 Missional Small Grp 6:00 HS Youth</p>	David Baruch Vacation				Office Closed	
<p>24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:00 &amp; 11:00 Worship Services</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 11:00 Prayer Group</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>6:00 <b>Candlelight</b> <b>Communion Service</b></p>	<p><i>Christmas Day</i> </p>	<p style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px;">Office Closed</p>	Pastor Scoonover Vacation			
<p>31 (No 9:00 Service) College Student Sunday</p>		<p>6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp</p>	<p>5:30 Middle School Youth</p>			



# Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 17 11:00 Worship Service

*The theme of this inspiring Christmas work by  
Lloyd Larson is joy.*

*It celebrates the promise that joy  
comes to those who wait;  
that following the long dark night,  
the breaking dawn brings joy for the new day.*

## **First Presbyterian Church**

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*Children's Christmas Pageant  
Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:00 pm*

