

Weekly Sunday Worship

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Coffee & Fellowship

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 7

4:00 Palmetto Bronze Bell Choir

Monday, December 8

6:00 Ladies Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 9

9:00 Healing Farms
11:00 Prayer Ministry
12:00 Staff Meeting
5:30 Soup Kitchen

Wednesday, December 10

9:00 Healing Farms
3:00 LOGOS
6:00 Choir
6:00 Youth

Thursday, December 11

5:30 SPF Meeting

Monday, December 15

1:00 Prayers & Squares
1:00 Prayers & Granny Squares
1:00 Wildcat Bible Study
No Session Meeting

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 Healing Farms
11:00 Prayer Ministry
12:00 Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 17

9:00 Healing Farms
3:00 LOGOS
6:00 Choir
6:00 Youth

Thursday, December 18

11:30 Ladies Luncheon

Tuesday, December 23

9:00 Healing Farms
11:00 Prayer Ministry
12:00 Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 24

Office Closed
Christmas Eve
6:00 Worship Service

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day
Office Closed

Tuesday, December 30

9:00 Healing Farms
11:00 Prayer Ministry
12:00 Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 31

9:00 Healing Farms
6:00 Choir
6:00 Youth

Advent 2025

Advent often gets overlooked. Now, now... don't throw tinsel at me just yet. I'm not talking about Christmas., I'm talking about Advent, the four weeks leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth. In fact, Christmas is often the reason that Advent gets overlooked. Even before the leftover Thanksgiving turkey is used for sandwiches, the tree is up, the lights are on the house, the "JOY" sign is in the yard, and we've leapfrogged Advent.

Don't get me wrong, I'm all about some Christmas, but the four-week season that comes before the twelve days of Christmastide is Advent. It's one of the two purple seasons in the church calendar. Like its counterpart, Lent (the 40 days leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus), Advent is a season of repentance, longing, waiting, yearning. Advent is a time to sit with and name our deep spiritual hunger, but we often miss this important discipline because we're jumping straight into the *feast* of a mid-December Christmas party.



Today, I'm inviting you to read this common Advent passage. Take a beat, right where you are, and join John in his wilderness longing. He was hungry. He was waiting. Can you join him in his longing for a change beneath the skin, for a burning-up of the deadwood in our lives, and for clean sweep in our dusty hearts?

While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called "the Baptizer," was preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: "Change your life. God's kingdom is here."

John and his message were authorized by Isaiah's prophecy:

Thunder in the desert!

Prepare for God's arrival!

Make the road smooth and straight!

John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life.

When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded:

"Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to make any difference? It's your life that must change, not your skin! And don't think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as father. Being a descendant of Abraham is neither here nor there. Descendants of Abraham are a dime a dozen. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it's deadwood, it goes on the fire. (continued on page 2)

“I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I’m a mere stagehand—will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

-Matthew 3:1-12 (The Message)

This powerful passage has much to offer us. Read it again prayerfully. Don’t jump to the manger just yet... rather, what are you waiting for?

In Christ, Pastor Timothy

Minutes in a Minute

On Monday, November 17 the session of First Presbyterian Church:

- Opened with prayer
- Examined and received the new class of officers:
 - Deacons: Anna Brown, Ginny Doll, Sullivan Giavelli, David Patrick
 - Elders: Jane Campbell, David Ling, Jennifer Worten
- Approved the minutes from October Session meeting and Congregational Meeting
- Approved the wedding request of Julie Jordan and Patrick Merli
- Approved the baptism of Carter McCravy for December 21, 2025
- Called the annual congregation meeting for January 11, 2026
- Approved the budget for 2025
- Received updates and reports from all ministry teams and the pastor
- Closed with pastoral prayer

Our next session meeting will be Monday, January 19 at 6 p.m.

Poinsettias



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 leave on the secretary’s desk along with your check. Poinsettias are \$15 each and checks should be made payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and designated *Poinsettias*. Deadline is Thursday, December 18.

Memory of: _____

Honor of : _____

From: _____

No. of Poinsettias _____ Amt. Paid: _____



Palmetto Bronze Lowcountry Community Handbell Ensemble with members from all over the Charleston area.

Palmetto Bronze Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 7 at 4 p.m.
Summerville Baptist Church
 417 Central Ave., Summerville

You're invited and it's free! The handbell ensemble has members from all over the Charleston area, including our very own Nancy Douthwaite. Marcia Brantley, the director, has been ringing and teaching handbells for more than 30 years. We will be playing Christmas music up to seven octaves of bells, hand chimes, trusonic bells and other percussion instruments. A favorite is "Mary, Did You Know?" Handbell music and Christmas go together, don't you agree?

Things You Need to Know

Ladies' Christmas Party
Monday, Dec. 8



You are invited! Ladies' Christmas Party Monday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. All women of the church are invited to a Christmas gathering in the fellowship hall. Bring a finger food of your choice and a \$5 gift for the gift exchange. Young girls are welcome to come with their mothers.

Ladies Fellowship Luncheon
Thursday, Dec. 18

All ladies of the church are invited. The luncheon is in the fellowship hall on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. This is a good time of fellowship and an opportunity to make new friends and catch up with old ones. Bring your lunch and we will provide the dessert. For more information, contact Doris Partlow at 843-934-2149.

Healing Farms Jingle & Mingle
Wednesday, Dec. 10
1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.



We're looking forward to hosting another year of the Healing Farms Jingle and Mingle. We would love to have as many of you as possible to come and join us. We will meet in the gymnasium. This is a family event, so bring the children. Come and shop the Healing Farms gifts that give back. Tron Severe, Healing Farms

Christmas Food Bags

Hugh Smith and Jerry Stuckey will be accepting donations for those that are less fortunate as they have done in previous years. Donations are needed as early as possible due to shortages of certain items that sell out quickly. The need is great, especially with the government shut-down recently. Last year 150 bags were distributed. Hugh said the goal this year is 175. Call Jerry (843-509-9528) or Hugh (843-729-6352) for more info.

HELLO-GOODBYE Workshop
Saturday, Jan. 24



Save the date--When you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying "This is the way, walk in it." All women of the church are invited to attend. The workshop will be Saturday morning. (exact time will be announced later)

Our Mission: Making disciples who reach UP to God, IN to one another, and OUT to the world!



Mexico Cistern Ministry Update and Prayer Request

Dear Cistern Ministry friends,
Between December 1-15, Felipe Torres, Victor Guzman, and I will visit hundreds of cistern owners in twenty-six villages. We do this every year. The main purpose is to hear about any cisterns that need repairs (thankfully, almost none do) and to collect building loan repayments. The informal conversations that Victor Guzman has with cistern owners is my favorite part of this process. The Holy Spirit works in unscripted, unexpected moments like those. During the next couple of weeks, take a moment to thank God for his mostly invisible work within our

Mexican and American partners through this little cistern ministry that continues to make a difference every day in the lives of over 700 families in our corner of Mexico. Thank you for your support!

All Praise to God, Todd Luke, Mexico Cistern Ministry

PYG

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUP

Our Mission:
Making disciples of the next generation who reach UP to God,
IN to one another, and OUT to the world!

The youth had a three week study series on “Hospitality and Welcome.”
To conclude the study they hosted a dinner and worship service November 19.
Each youth invited a friend.



Reflections of 2025 at FPC



We extend Christian Sympathies to Cindy Orvin and her family.
Cindy's beloved husband, Clair Tatum Orvin, passed on Monday, November 24.

Timothy and Session,

Thank you for hosting the Presbytery meeting and for all your help to me getting the Worship Service elements to come together. The church plant, the warm welcome and delicious lunch made for a great Presbytery meeting. Know that you all are in my prayers of gratitude.

Rev. Mike Fitz

Dear Timothy, Bo, and Session,

Thank you! Thank you! Yesterday was a great day and everything seemed to flow seamlessly. We are grateful. Your campus is well kept and beautiful with evidence of great love. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of themselves to make it a special day. God is definitely at work at FPC MC.

Love in Christ, Rev. Becky Albright



- 2 Davie Baughn, Jr
- 2 Meredith Bell
- 2 David Ling
- 3 Jeff Baumann
- 3 Bryant Davis
- 3 Sheryl Gooch
- 3 Thomas Guerry
- 4 Elliott Millwood
- 5 Emily Matthews
- 6 Kathy Baumann
- 6 Patsy Hastings
- 6 Teresa Moore
- 8 Davis Weathers
- 8 Hampton Weathers
- 9 Connie Brinson
- 10 Martha Rose Brown
- 10 Birda Ferguson
- 10 Justin Robinette
- 11 Andy Ferez
- 11 Bo Hamilton
- 11 Beau Patrick
- 12 Ashley Carner
- 12 Stefan Castelucci
- 11 Billie Coleman
- 12 Teresa Holeman
- 12 Charles Matthews
- 13 Richard Kizer
- 14 Kevin Wadford
- 15 Colleen Anderson
- 15 Micah Scoonover
- 16 Pam Brogdon
- 17 Alan Foster
- 17 Deidre Stehmeyer
- 17 Christopher Wilson
- 18 Elliott Millwood
- 18 Ella Mae Riley
- 19 Nancy Stuckey
- 21 Lillian Baughn
- 21 Cadie Gooch
- 22 Melissa Anne Primm
- 23 Cyndy Britt
- 23 Arthur Devereux
- 23 Jackie Gooch
- 27 Salena Dunlap
- 28 Noah Williams
- 30 Arianna Baughn
- 31 Wren Millwood
- 31 Hugh Murchison
- 31 Don Saturday



Jane and Uncle Bill with his prayer quilt

My Uncle Bill was so touched by the prayer quilt from our church. I don't see him get choked up very often, but he did that day, after I explained what all the knots meant. Later, he was cold and asked his wife to bring him a blanket—"you know the one I want" he said. This meant so much to him and to me. Thank you all.

Jane Campbell

Food Pantry

Please bring fruit juice & canned tuna for December

Samaritan's Purse








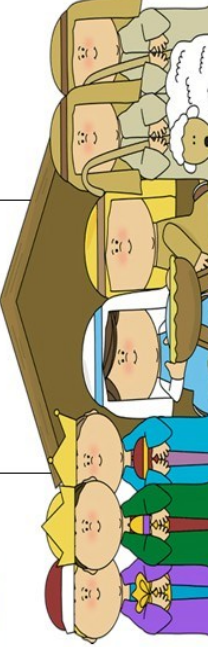
I would like to thank everyone that filled a Samaritan's Purse shoebox for children all over the world. We collected 68 boxes this year and we appreciate everyone that participated. This shoebox ministry is the only time some children will hear about Jesus and his love. Thank you for helping to spread the gospel to these young hearts. In Christ, Mickey Smith

End of Year Giving

Your 2025 offerings must be received before midnight December 31 to be included in your 2025 Offering Statement. If your check is mailed, it must be postmarked before Jan. 1, 2026. Thank you for understanding as we seek to comply with federal tax law. Most of all, thank you for your generosity and partnership in God's mission in the world. Thank You, Sally

Commitment Report	Budget for 2025	\$576,231.00
	November 23 & 30, 2025	Year to Date
Budget Offering	\$ 11,911.17	\$546,479.21
Weekly Budget Requirements	\$ 23,112.00	\$554,688.00

December 2025 First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee & Fellowship 	1 1:00 Prayers & Squares 1:00 Prayers & Granny Squares 1:00 Wildcat Bible Study 3:00 Visitation Ministry	2 9:00 Healing Farms 11:00 Prayer Ministry 12:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Blood Drive	3 9:00 Healing Farms 3:00 LOGOS 6:00 Choir 6:00 Youth	4 3:30 Fuller Formation	5 3:30 Fuller Formation	6 8:30-5:00 Fuller Formation
7 <i>Communion</i>  4:00 Palmetto Bronze Bell Choir	8  6:00 Women's Christmas Party	9 9:00 Healing Farms 11:00 Prayer Ministry 12:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Soup Kitchen Sally Vacation	10 9:00 Healing Farms 1:00 Healing Farms Jingle Mingle 3:00 LOGOS 6:00 Choir	11 12:00 Mission Ministry 5:30 SPF Meeting	12 	13
14 	15 1:00 Prayers & Squares 1:00 Prayers & Granny Squares 1:00 Wildcat Bible Study No Session Meeting	16 9:00 Healing Farms 11:00 Prayer Ministry 12:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Soup Kitchen Sally Vacation	17 9:00 Healing Farms 3:00 LOGOS 6:00 Choir 6:00 Youth	18 11:30 Ladies Luncheon 	19 	20
21 	22 	23 9:00 Healing Farms 11:00 Prayer Ministry 12:00 Staff Meeting Sally Vacation	24 Christmas Eve 6:00 Christmas Eve Communion Service Office Closed	25 Christmas Day  Office Closed	26 Sally Vacation Carrie-Ann Vacation Timothy Vacation	27
28 	29 	30 	31 11:00 Prayer Ministry Office Closed			

Advent Sermon Series—Conclusion of I Peter

Nov. 30 Humble Leaders of the Church of **Hope**
Dec. 7 Real Enemy of the Church of **Peace**
Dec. 14 Eternal Prayer of the Church of **Joy**
Dec. 21 Final Greetings of the Church of **Love**

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion Service at 6 p.m.



First
Presbyterian
of MONCKS CORNER

First Presbyterian Church

419 West Main Street

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Phone (843) 761-8469

E-Mail: FirstPresbyt@homesc.com

Pastor
Timothy Scoonover
Editor
Sally Harvey

**Our Mission: Making disciples who reach UP to God,
IN to one another, and OUT to the world!**