

GATHERING

*God, surely you are my salvation. I begin this day without fear, trusting you, for you are my strength. Help me to meditate all day on the thought that you are rejoicing in me! And keep me keenly aware, as I travel through this day, of ways that I may help others, especially those with special needs. Then bring me home to you at the close of the day.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Advent Prayer
Aden Weigle, baritone

M. Patterson

A light will shine to show us the way, lighting the darkness, bright'ning the day. A light will shine to show us the way. Bright star, come quickly, and guide us, we pray. A child will come to show us the way; born in a manger on a soft bed of hay. A child will come to show us the way. Christ child, come quickly and guide us, we pray. The Savior comes to show us the way. What will he teach us, what will he say? The Savior comes to show us the way. Savior, come quickly and guide us, we pray.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against us!

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in our midst;

We shall fear disaster no more

*** HYMN 134**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Margaret & Howard Lingg (8:30 A.M.)

Eileen, Jacob, & Penelope Stephens (11 A.M.)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*** ACT OF PRAISE**

Gloria Patri

Hymn 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 198

Thanks be to God.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Matt Mitchell, Scott Stuart

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Anait Piloyan

CHANCEL CHOIR

CHAPEL USHER: Jeanne Thomas; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

A/V TEAM: Dink Henderson, John Rayl, and Youth Connection students: Owen Best, Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly, Kim de Fretes, Dania Moreno, Elijah West

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT: We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to Heather Gilkey and family upon the passing of husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather Joe Gilkey, who joined the Church Triumphant on December 5, 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS to our newly ordained and installed elders Perry Foote, Heather Mears, and Rick Young.

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Ben, by Eleanor Samuels for what would have been our 67th anniversary on Saturday.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Prayer of Belief: *Lord Jesus Christ, I admit I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior. Amen.* (If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please let the pastor or elders on duty know.)

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Leon & Jayne Fox, and Carol Hayes-Christiansen. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

Leadership

Rev. Mark Hults
Pastor

Carol Israel
Clerk of Session

Dink Henderson
Treasurer

Session

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Fleetwood Fleming	Pam Bailey	Rachel Coffey
Carol Israel	Greg Dowling	Colin Conerly
Heather Mears	Perry Foote	BarBee Geiger
Joe Mueller	Andy Greer	Evelyn Lewis
Elisa Neale-Tobener	Margaret Lingg	Coleen O'Brien
Geoff Spiegel	Susannah Peddie	Rose Anna Rutledge
Alexis Vellis	Dick Rauber	Eileen Stephens
Sarah Whitfield	Steve Walker	Rick Young

Diaconate

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Holli Best	Mark Coffey	Buzz Boyd
Megan Greer	Mimi Gray	Mimi Carr
Fred Lewis	Dean Schoenfeld	Bob Tucker
	Jane Smith	Beth Wood

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist
Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry
Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry
Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director
Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

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Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

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Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk
Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

Property Coordinator
John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NRSV)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

384 Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

Ministry Highlights

Visit our growing website for more about our church and ministries.



Advent Organ Concert

You are invited to this year's Advent Organ Concert on Tuesday, December 17 at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary with Joshua Mazur, organist at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.



Year-End Giving

Contributions to the church made through Tuesday, December 31, 2024 will be credited to the calendar year 2024. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate on December 29, made online by midnight on December 31, or postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. The office will be closed Monday, December 30 through Friday, January 3.



Christmas Eve

Worship will be held in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. with carols, candlelight, and Holy Communion. The Prelude, beginning at 5:30 p.m., will include the Chancel Choir, Jubilate Ringers, chamber orchestra, and several soloists. If you cannot attend our Christmas Eve Worship, you may join us on YouTube.

Christmas Eve Nursery opens at 5:15 p.m. and runs through the end of the worship service. Please contact Jenna Mueller (dmueller2009@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer to help this Christmas Eve.

Pick-up a calendar page from the ushers for all this week's ministry events or print one from the weekly invite email. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.


Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video and audio as well as archives at 1stpc.org

CCLI License #2742913 & CCLI Streaming #CSPL091568

Christmas Poinsettias

During the Christmas season our worship spaces will be decorated with poinsettias. Flowers are available to purchase in honor or in memory of a family member or loved one. The poinsettias are \$15 each and can be ordered by filling out the form below to place in the offering plate or mail to the church office by Sunday, December 15. The poinsettias will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve service.



Poinsettias Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Ministries

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nursery Care during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. Contact: Jenna Mueller - jdmueller2009@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are released from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith. After the service, families meet in Gordon Hall. Contact: Evelyn Lewis - citytr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. Contact Bev Vloedman to RSVP for 6 p.m. dinner at dvloedman@aol.com.

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12.

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & lunch and Tuesday Bible study. Bring a friend!

Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM) is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

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Property Coordinator

JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Poinsettia dedications due today

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: John 13 - Serendipity Z. Rinonos - Lib.
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: Advent Week 2 - Rm 201
- 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship and the Ordination & Installation of Elders - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217
- 12:00 p.m. Montreat Christmas Table

Monday, December 16, 2024

- 10:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

- 12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Concert - Sanctuary
- 2:15 p.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. Trustees - Zoom

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Friday, December 20, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. Preschool Christmas Pageant - Gordon Hall

Saturday, December 21, 2024

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover Christmas Party - Library
All are welcome!
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: Advent Week 3 - Rm 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217
- 12:00 p.m. Montreat Christmas Table