

*The Church Gathers***Chiming of the Hour****Welcome and Concerns of the Church**

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Invitation to Christian Discipleship**Minute for Missions***Debbie Carmical***Preparation for Worship**

Let us prepare our hearts for worship first in silence, then as we listen to the prelude.

O God, the gift of your Son is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astound us! Inspire us to teach your commandments and share your gospel, that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

Prelude*“Nun Danket alle Gott”**Jeffrey Honoré***Congregational Introit****“Sanctuary”**

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Call to WorshipPsalm 123*

Leader: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

People: As the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, giver of every good gift.

Leader: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Look with favor upon us, O Lord, and be pleased with our praise and thanksgiving.

All: Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise #356*“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*****Prayer of Adoration 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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*The Church Confesses***Invitation to Confession****Unison Prayer of Confession:**

O God, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. Christ calls us stewards, but we squander your gifts. He gives us tasks to perform, yet we do as we

please. He sends us to minister on behalf of those suffering; we are slow to respond until our own needs are met. He expects us to praise you in all that we do; we take all the credit for those things we do well. Forgive us and help us to be more obedient. *(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession.) Amen.*

Kyrie*You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy.**You are the Christ, Giver of Mercy.**You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy.***Assurance of Pardon*****Gloria Patri** *(Hymn# 579)**The Church Proclaims God's Word***Message for Children***Kay Rentz***Prayer of Illumination***Debbie Carmical***First Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11** *(NT page 193 in your pew Bible)*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem*“Thanks Be To Thee”**Handel, arr. Shaw**Adult Choir***Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14 – 30** *(NT page 27 in your pew Bible)*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon**“Be Strong! Godstrong!”**

Reverend Nath Briley

*The Church Responds in Faith****Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage, to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn #422** "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Offering of Life

Offertory "Now Thank We All Our God" Crüger/Pethel

***Doxology** (Hymn # 592)

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #555** "Now Thank We all Our God"

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response (sing twice)** "Go Now in Peace"

*Go now in peace, Go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.*

***Postlude** "Ritornello on Nun Danket" David Schelat

*Worship Has Ended - Service Begins
Those who are able may stand at these times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 19, 2017

Blessings and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day! *If you are visiting with us, we offer a special word of welcome and an invitation to participate in the life of the congregation.* If you are interested in learning more about our ministry, please speak with the pastor after worship. **Copies of The Connection are available in the Narthex and Parlor hallway** for those who do not receive it by email. Please contact the church office to add your email address for correspondence.

Visitors with children: We welcome you to worship and are always glad for your children to be with us! Should you desire, nursery (0 – 17 months) and toddler (18 months – 3 years) rooms are available for our youngest children each Sunday morning on the lower level of our sanctuary building. **Please complete the parental questionnaire and sign-in sheet when you drop off your little one. This information will be on a table in the nursery. We ask that you include your cell phone number in case you may be needed during the church service (please place your phone on vibrate).** Following the Children's Sermon, preschool children (4 to 5 year olds who have not entered

kindergarten) are invited to attend Preschool Church in the toddler room of the nursery. Children may be picked up there after worship.

Children's worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Children's worship bags are also available in the narthex. Please return the bags following worship to be used again next week.

Please remember to turn off all electronic devices except for parents with children in the nursery. These parents should make sure their phones are on vibrate.

AUDIO ENHANCEMENTS: Audio devices for the congregation and visitors to use are located in the narthex. If you are in need of one of the devices, please speak to one of our ushers or greeters, and they will gladly assist you.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT: Today is Commitment Sunday 2017. We will walk forward to place our Time & Talent sheets, Pledge Cards, and offerings in the baskets below the Communion Table where we renew and remember. Thanks be to God for all the work, prayers, encouragement, and contributions to keep Christ's Church active in this community and the world.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Children and youth who would like to participate in the Christmas Eve Pageant should **see Amy Briley to sign up. Rehearsals will be on Sundays, December 3rd, December 10th, and December 17th** for approximately 30 minutes after worship. Pageant will be 11:00am on Dec. 24th.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: This evening, the youth will meet at the church at **5:30 for dinner and sorting clothing and other items for Winter Warmth.** June Harden and Lucy Spearman will provide dinner.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP: The Caregivers Group began a **new study last Monday, It's OK that You're Not OK: Meeting Grief and Loss in a Culture That Doesn't Understand** by Megan Devine. **The cost of the book is \$15.00. Please let Barbara Caruthers know if you want a copy.**

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: The Wednesday morning Bible study will **not meet this week, but will resume on November 29th.**

BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC TREE LIGHTING: Blue Ridge will hold their Annual Tree lighting Service this **Tuesday, November 21st at 5:15pm** at the **W Main Street location.** Rev. Nath will offer the devotion and Ashley Dodgens will provide music for the event.

MONTREAT SENIOR HIGH CONFERENCE: If you are planning to attend the **Senior High Conference this summer, July 7th – 14th, please see Kay Rentz today, November 19th.** **A deposit of \$100 is due at that time.** Anyone who will be a rising 10th grader through graduating senior is welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: The service sponsored by the Pickens Ministerial Association will be held this year at the **Pickens Seventh-day Adventist Church this evening at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall** and will be centered around worship as fellowship. After the service there will be a reception and **Pickens Presbyterian members are asked to bring salty snacks.** Also feel free to bring canned goods for the community food bank. Please come and give thanks to God in community and fellowship!

PREACHING NEXT SUNDAY: Rev. Nath will be out of town next Sunday, November 26th, to work on his Doctoral studies. **John DuBose has agreed to preach for us.** He is a member at Easley Presbyterian Church and is a seminary student at Union Theological Seminary at its branch in Charlotte. **Please join us next week and welcome John to the PPC pulpit.**

WINTER WARMTH: For those who are able to help, **set-up for the Winter Warmth clothing giveaway will be Friday, December 1st** at the Pickens Recreation Center at 545 Sangamo. Clothing will be moved from the yellow house to the recreation center **beginning 8:30am until finished**, usually by 2:00pm. **Lunch will be provided!** The give-away will be Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 8:00am. Volunteers are asked to come at 7:30am. There will be clothes and sizes for everyone!

WISE AND WONDERFUL OUTING: The next outing for our senior adult ministry will be **Sunday afternoon, December 10th, at 3:00pm**, for the Foothills Chorale concert in Seneca of Handel's Messiah." Tickets will be \$20. The group will travel by church bus. If you are interested in attending, please contact Cyndi in the church office or Doug Finney.

FOOD PANTRY: In November, we are asking for peanut butter and jelly, and any other food items to fill the boxes for hungry people who come to the church.

GENERAL FUNDS UPDATE: Offering last Sunday: General Fund: \$7,889.75

PRAYER REQUESTS: You are encouraged to share prayer concerns on the pink cards in the pew racks.

A list of **CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS** is available in the narthex.

<u>Serving:</u>	<u>November 19, 2017</u>	<u>November 26, 2017</u>
Flowers:	Robin Giddings	Kay Rentz
Beadle:	Carol Marsh	Neveah Harden
Toddler & Preschool Church:	Tina La Foy	Grayson Lamb
Refreshments:	Gail Gettys	Della Black
Pulpit Elder:	Debbie Carmical	David Chamlee
Children's Moment:	Kay Rentz	Jo Anne Gessell

Youth Meal:	June Harden & Lucy Spearman	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
Sunday School Superintendent:	Cindy Townsend	Cindy Townsend
Sanctuary Guild:	Cyndi Banks	Cyndi Banks
Crisis/Celebration Coordinator:	Kay Tilley	Kay Tilley
Ushers:	Robert Simms, Modena Moss, Barbara & Joe Christopher	Robert Simms, Modena Moss, Barbara & Joe Christopher
Greeter:	Bob Allison	Bob Allison

Lectionary readings for today:

Judges 4: 1 – 7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11
Matthew 25: 14 – 30

Lectionary readings for next Sunday:

Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24
Psalm 100 or Psalm 95: 1 – 7a
Ephesians 1: 15 – 23
Matthew 25: 31 – 46

Church Activities and Events This Week:

Sunday, November 19	9:30am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Fellowship in All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship
	4:30pm	Confirmation Class
	5:30pm	Youth Fellowship
	6:00pm	Community Thanksgiving Service – Seventh-day Adventist Church
Monday, November 20	11:00am	Centering Prayer
	1:30pm	Ministry for Caregivers
	6:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 21	9:00am	Jane B. Morris Service Fund
	5:00pm	CDV Class – McJunkin Room
Wednesday, November 22	9:45am	CDC Children's Chapel
	12:00pm	Rotary Club
Thursday, November 23		<i>Office Closed – Thanksgiving Day</i>
Friday, November 24		<i>Office Closed</i>
Sunday, November 26	9:30am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Fellowship
	11:00am	Worship – Christ the King Sunday

Online calendar: <http://73970421.view-events.com>

Concerns and Celebrations: