Pickens Presbyterian Church

311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

"To the Glory of God, and the Service of People"

December 10th, 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent Eleven o'clock

The Church Gathers

The Session invites members to wear masks to worship and other gatherings, if you are more comfortable doing so in a group situation, and of course if you are sick to please stay home.

Chiming of the Hour

Concerns in the Life of the Church

Preparation for Worship

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

Prelude *"A Bethlehem Pastorale"* *Steven Scott*

***Call to Worship & Lighting the Advent Candle** *Ivy & Roy Stoddard*

. . . to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle Peace.

. . . God is a refuge for us.

***Advent Wreath Song** v.2 The Candle of Hope (by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.

***Advent Wreath Prayer**

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to <u>become</u> the signs of peace that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's peace. Amen.

***Hymn #3** *"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"*

The Church Confesses

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

"Prepare the way of the Lord," your prophet says to us. Forgive us when we have failed to prepare your way. Forgive us when we have stood in your way, instead: when we let the challenging words of your prophets roll off of lives, rather than let them spark change; when we walk around a neighbor in need, rather than encounter a chance for compassion. Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us assurance that the glory of your coming does not depend upon the righteousness of your followers. Forgive us, O Lord, and free us to try again. . . . *(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**

. . . in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. ***Thanks be to God.***

***Corporate Passing of the Peace**
Peace be with you. ***And also with you.***

Gloria Patri #579** ***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, Amen.

The Church Proclaims God's Word

Prayer for Illumination *Elder Mark Taylor*

1st Scripture Reading Isaiah 40.1-11
The Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" Picardy, Arr. J Carter*
PPC Adult Choir

2nd Scripture Reading Mark 1.1-8
The Word of God for the People of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

Time with Young Disciples

Sermon *"Open to the Unexpected?"*
The Reverend Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

***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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

***Hymn #13** *"Prepare the Way"*

Offering

Offertory *"What Shall We Give?" Traditional Catalan Carol*

Doxology #592** ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (debts/Debtors)

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.

***Hymn of Commitment #2** *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

***Advent Litany and Benediction**

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.

Postlude *"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" Traditional German Carol*

(Please remain seated until worship ends with the end of the Postlude)

The Church Departs and Service Begins

**Those who are able please stand in body or spirit.*

PRAYER REQUESTS: Share prayer concerns in worship, on the pew rack cards (place in the offering plates), or email the church office admin@pickenspresbyterian.org.

Prayer Concern List

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. -- Philippians 4:6 (NRSV)

(Prayer concern list policy: Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks, after which they may be either renewed for another 4 weeks, or moved to the Long-Term Prayer Concern List)

Name (relationship)	Concern
*Jeanne Bowen	health concerns
Mary Dawn Mills (Niece of Raymond & Margaret Dawkins)	health concerns
Gary Sparks	health concerns
Dianna Morris	health concerns
Katherine Acker Brooks	health concerns

**new this week*

Peace in Ukraine. PDA support: gifts to DR000156.

Maui Fire Victims. PDA support: gifts to DR000165.

Humanitarian Aid to Israel/Palestine. PDA support: text PDAIP to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "**DR000081-Israel/Palestine**" on the memo line.

Long Term Prayer Concern List

"Gig" Alexander, Bert Allison, Barbara & Joe Christopher, Jane Gillespie, Scott Kelly, Tommy Owen, John Owens, Faye Padgett, Jo Ann Taylor, Melvin Tolliver (Deb Holtel's uncle), John & Tiffanie Torrey (David's brother and sister-in-law), Israel/Gaza conflict.

The Christian love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Stanley Simms (friend of Roy Stoddard) his dying to this life recently.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessings and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day! *If you are visiting, we offer a special welcome and invite you to participate with us in mission and ministry.* Contact the church office to begin receiving our newsletter.

Cookies for College Students: Thank you to our church family for your overwhelming support in restoring this Christmas tradition. So many cookies! Through the efforts of those who baked, sampled, packaged, mailed and delivered we shared holiday goodies with 10 college students and 12 of our members with health limitations plus enough to take some to the children at the CDC. Looking forward to next year.

POINSETTIA FUND: We are accepting memorials and honorariums for the Poinsettia Fund again this year through today. The two poinsettias that decorate our pulpit during Advent represent our Jane B. Morris Service/Fuel Fund and Food Pantry ministries that the memorials and honorariums will be used to support. Special offering envelopes are provided in the pew racks. **Memorials and Honorariums will be listed on a special bulletin insert on December 17th and 24th.**

POTLUCK LUNCH AND CAROL SING: All are invited to lunch and to sing favorite carols following our worship service this morning.

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Seekers Adult Sunday School class is currently discussing the daily Advent readings from the Presbyterian Outlook magazine. All are invited to join us on Sundays at 9:30am in the church Parlor.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Please join your church family in reading "Apocalyptic Advent: Embracing Hope in the Second Coming of Christ" from Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook. There are printed copies of the full devotional available in the Narthex, and a link is included in our weekly Cliffnotes.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – SPECIAL EVENTS & SERVICES:

Potluck Lunch & Carol Sing – **12:00pm TODAY**
Lessons and Carols – 11:00am on December 17th
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion – 11:00pm on December 24th

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CDC: Renew your Ingles' savings card support of our CDC, using school code **#22903** online at: **https://tinyurl.com/PickensCDC**.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME: Please join us in All Saints' Hall at 10:30am for food and fellowship. **Sign up online at: https://tinyurl.com/FellowshipSnacks or via the QR code in the Cliffnotes.**

GENERAL FUND UPDATE:

Offering last Sunday: General Fund: **$4,606.00.**
Total General Offering Year-to-Date: **$220,430.42, includes $18,834 online.**
Total General Expenses Year-to-Date: **$251,459.37.**

Contributions Needed Weekly to Maintain 2023 Budget: $5,316.60.

Serving:	**December 10, 2023**	**December 17, 2023**
Pulpit Elder:	Starla Taylor	Cindy Townsend
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Teeple	Debbie Teeple
Ushers:	Liza Holder & Donna Owen	Tina LaFoy & John Blackwood
Refreshments:	TBD	TBD
Camera Operation:	Ginger Chastain	Robert Simms
Sunday Youth Meals:	*Youth Christmas Party*	*No Youth Meeting*
Communion Servers:		

Lectionary readings for today:
Pulpit Elder: Starla Taylor
Isaiah 40.1–11
Psalm 85.1–2, 8–13
2 Peter 3.8–15a
Mark 1.1–8

Lectionary readings for next Sunday:
Pulpit Elder: Cindy Townsend
Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1.46b–55
1 Thessalonians 5.16–24
John 1.6–8, 19–28

Church Activities and Events This Week:

See the Online calendar at: **http://73970421.view-events.com**

Day	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, Dec 10	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship Service – 2nd Sunday of Advent	Sanctuary
	12:00pm	Potluck Lunch & Carol Sing	ASH
	6:00pm	Youth Christmas Party	Anna's House
Monday, Dec 11	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	11:00am	Centering Prayer	Parlor
	6:00pm	Girl Scouts	Ed Bldg/ASH
Tuesday, Dec 12	9:00am	Kerosene Fund	Church Office
	4:30pm	Onsite Prayer Group	All Saints' Hall
Wednesday, Dec 13	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	10:00am	CDC Children's Chapel	All Saints' Hall
	10:30am	Bible Study	ASH
	4:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursday, Dec 14	12:00pm	**DEADLINE** – Bulletin & Cliffnotes	
	5:00pm	POA Meeting – Karen Brown	All Saints' Hall
Friday, Dec 15		*Office Closed*	
Saturday, Dec 16			
Sunday, Dec 17	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship Service – 3rd Advent/Lessons & Carols Service	

Sermon Notes:

PICKENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministers – All Members
Transitional Pastor – The Reverend Dr. David Torrey dtorrey219@gmail.com
Parish Associate – The Reverend Beverly Kelly
Church Administrator/Treasurer – Mrs. Cyndi Banks admin@pickenspresbyterian.org
Church Administrative Assistant – Ms. Linda Banks office@pickenspresbyterian.org
Interim Choir Director – Dr. Marianne Holland
Interim Organist – Mr. Steve Ellison
Director of Child Development Center – Mrs. Chasity Lesley chasitylesley@ppcdc.net

SESSION & COMMITTEES

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Ken Acker	Tina LaFoy	Nancy Goldsmith
Roger Gettys	Donna Owen	David McCormick
Rocky Harden	Debbie Teeple	Robert Simms
Roy Stoddard	Cindy Townsend	Starla Taylor
Ken Townsend		
Trustee: Allison Ranson	Trustee: Debbie Carmical	Trustee: Tim Crocker

Moderator: Rev. Dr. David A. Torrey
Phone: 864.878.9422 ext. 2, 803.317.3331 (cell)

Clerk of Session: Kay Rentz **Co-Clerk of Session:** Karen Brown

Building and Grounds: Roy Stoddard and David McCormick (Co-Moderators)
Child Development Center: Jim Mahanes
Christian Education: Cindy Townsend and Robert Simms (Co-Moderators)
Administration: Budget: Ken Acker,
Administration: Donna Owen,
Finance: Ken Townsend
Fellowship and Care: Tina LaFoy and Nancy Goldsmith (Co-Moderators)
Missions: Roger Gettys and Rocky Harden (Co-Moderators)
Worship: Debbie Teeple and Starla Taylor (Co-Moderators)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Sarah/Emily Circle Co-Moderators – Christa Schwab and Kay Tilley
Eve Circle Co-Moderators – Sherry Schell and Debbie Carmical

THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

(Book of Order) F-1.0304

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
The maintenance of divine worship
The preservation of the truth
The promotion of social righteousness
The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world