

# Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET  
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

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

**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**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

*Arr. John F. Wade*

**\*Call to Worship & Lighting the Advent Candle**

*The Townsend Family*

*. . . to nestle among the greens.*

*We name this candle Hope.*

*We name this candle Peace.*

*We name this candle Joy.*

*We name this candle Love.*

*. . . and his love is perfected in us.*

**\*Advent Wreath Song v.4**

*The Candle of Hope (by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)*

*The candle of love tells what we are worth:*

*God loves us so much, God came to the earth!*

*An angel brought news of a child who would be*

*The one who would save us and set us all free.*

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer**

*Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of love this week, help us to become the signs of love 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 love. Amen.*

**\*Hymn #145**

*“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”*

**The Church Confesses****\*Invitation to Confession****\*Prayer of Confession**

*An angel spoke to Mary: “Do not be afraid!” And yet, O Lord, we find ourselves paralyzed by fear of what we do not know. Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and give us the faith of Mary to respond to your grace with lives of grateful praise. Let us hear the good news that she first heard: Light is breaking. Love is coming. The world is about to turn! . . . (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 Cindy Townsend*

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading**

Psalm 89.1-4, 19-26

The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

**Special Music**

*"Gesù Bambino"*

*Pietro Yon*

*Carolyn Few Yarbrough – Soprano*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**

Luke 1.26-38

The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

**Time with Young Disciples**

**Sermon**

*"Love Overflowing"*

**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.*

**Special Music**

*"French Carol Duet"*

*Donnaly and Strid*

*PPC Adult Choir*

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

*Arr. Mark Hayes*

**\*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 #56

*"The First Nowell"*

### \*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

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

*Arr. Jeff Bennett*

*(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.*

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**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](mailto: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

Norm Rentz.....health concerns

Jeanne Bowen.....health concerns

Mary Dawn Mills (Niece of Raymond & Margaret Dawkins) .....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, Katherine Acker Brooks, 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 **Gary Sparks** on his dying to this life, Monday, December 18, 2023.

The Christian love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **Jaden Brown** (21-year-old son of Melissa Brown – friend of Sara Swaynham) on his dying to this life, Monday, December 18, 2023.

The Christian love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **Joe Lee** (nephew of Ivy Stoddard) on his dying to this life, Sunday, December 17, 2023.

### 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.

*Many Thanks to those who served as readers for the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Service of Lessons and Carols: Jan Sparks, Jessie Cole, Leo Tilley, Mark Taylor, Joe Padgett, Jeff Price, Allison Ranson, Rev. Kathy Chamlee, and Rev. Terri Price. We would also like to thank our college members returning to share their musical talents: Nevaeh Harden, Jayden Harden, June Simms, Adam Marsh; as well as other musicians who assisted with the service: Anna Chastain, Alex Armock, O.D. Hendricks, Joe Padgett, and Robert Wood.*

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** This special offering will be collected during Offertory today. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. **Please see the bulletin insert for more information.** You can also Text **CHRISTMASJOY** to 91999 or go to [pcusa.org/christmas-joy/](https://pcusa.org/christmas-joy/) . If giving online, please include the name of our congregation.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** We hope all will be able to attend our **Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service at 11:00pm** this evening.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** The church office will be closed on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas holiday.

**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: **\$1,063.00.**

Total General Offering Year-to-Date: **\$224,893.91, includes \$19,584 online.**

Total General Expenses Year-to-Date: **\$263,878.27.**

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

<u>Serving:</u>	<u>December 24, 2023</u>	<u>December 31, 2023</u>
Pulpit Elder:	Cindy Townsend	Roy Stoddard
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Teeple	Debbie Teeple
Ushers:	Ivy & Roy Stoddard	Christa & Dennis Schwab
Refreshments:	TBD	TBD
Camera Operation:	Anna Chastain	Carole Thomas
Sunday Youth Meals:	<i>No Youth Meeting</i>	<i>No Youth Meeting</i>
Communion Servers:	PM Service: Starla & Mark T, Cindy & Austin T, Tina La	

### Lectionary readings for today:

Pulpit Elder: Cindy Townsend  
2 Samuel 7.1–11, 16  
Luke 1.46b–55 or Psalm 89.1–4, 19–26  
Romans 16.25–27  
Luke 1.26–38

### Lectionary readings for next Sunday:

Pulpit Elder: Roy Stoddard  
Isaiah 61.10—62.3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4.4–7  
Luke 2.22–40

## Church Activities and Events This Week: See Online calendar at: <http://73970421.view-events.com>

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, Dec 24	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship Service – 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	
	11:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	
Monday, Dec 25		<i>Office Closed – Christmas Holiday</i>	
Tuesday, Dec 26		<i>Office Closed – Christmas Holiday</i>	
	4:30pm	Onsite Prayer Group	All Saints' Hall
Wednesday, Dec 27	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	10:00am	CDC Children's Chapel	All Saints' Hall
	10:30am	Bible Study	ASH
	2:00pm	Memorial Service for Tom Collins	Sanctuary
	4:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursday, Dec 28	12:00pm	<b>DEADLINE</b> – Bulletin & Cliffnotes	
Friday, Dec 29		<i>Office Closed</i>	
Saturday, Dec 30			
Sunday, Dec 31	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship Service – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas	

**Sermon Notes:**

# PICKENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministers – All Members

Transitional Pastor – The Reverend Dr. David Torrey [dtorrey219@gmail.com](mailto:dtorrey219@gmail.com)

Parish Associate – The Reverend Beverly Kelly

Church Administrator/Treasurer – Mrs. Cyndi Banks [admin@pickenspresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@pickenspresbyterian.org)

Church Administrative Assistant – Ms. Linda Banks [office@pickenspresbyterian.org](mailto: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](mailto:chasitylesley@ppcdc.net)

## SESSION & COMMITTEES

### Class of 2023

Ken Acker  
Roger Gettys  
Rocky Harden  
Roy Stoddard  
Ken Townsend

### Class of 2024

Tina LaFoy  
Donna Owen  
Debbie Teeple  
Cindy Townsend

### Class of 2025

Nancy Goldsmith  
David McCormick  
Robert Simms  
Starla Taylor

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

Pickens Presbyterian Church ◦ 311 W Main Street ◦ Pickens, SC 29671

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