

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.

Congregation members are invited to come forward to place Chrismon ornaments on the Chrismon Tree during the Prelude.

Prelude “ ‘Andante’ from Splendor and Honor” Michael Burkhardt***Call to Worship & Lighting the Advent Candle** *The Marsh & Cole families*
... to nestle among the greens.

We name this candle Hope.

... God is a refuge for us.

***Advent Wreath Song** v.1 The Candle of Hope (by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

The candle of hope we light in this hour

Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.

We wait for a future, now hidden from view,

When Christ in his glory will make all things new.

***Advent Wreath Prayer**

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

***Hymn #8**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

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

Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating: from fear that blocks the way of love, from worry that blocks the way of joy, from isolation that blocks the way of relationship, from structural injustices that keep the world bound. Forgive us, O God of hosts, until the stars fall from heaven and we live as people transformed. . . . (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 Debbie Teeple

1st Scripture Reading Isaiah 64.1-9

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

Special Music

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"
Rev. Terri Price, Guest Soloist

Holst, Arr. Liebergen

2nd Scripture Reading Mark 13.24-37

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

Time with Young Disciples

Sermon

"Look Around!"

The Reverend Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Hymn #9**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Offering and Change-for-Change Food Pantry Offering

Offertory

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” Michael Praetorius

***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**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God:

. . . we will celebrate victory with him.

Remembering the Lord Jesus, we break bread and share one cup, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations. . . .

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul, *and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, *and forget not all God's benefits.*

***Hymn of Commitment #139**

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

***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 “*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*” Jakob Hintze/Mark Hayes

(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)

<u>Name (relationship)</u>	<u>Concern</u>
*Mary Dawn Mills (Niece of Raymond & Margaret Dawkins).....	health concerns
*Gary Sparks	health concerns
*Dianna Morris	health concerns
<u>Katherine Acker Brooks</u>	<u>health concerns</u>

**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, 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.

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.

Welcome to Rev. Terri Price, who is sharing her vocal talent with PPC today.

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Seekers Adult Sunday School class will be 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.

PPC FOOD PANTRY: We will be accepting the Change-for-Change and Coupon Cans special offering during Worship this morning and on each 1st Sunday, for financial support of the church’s food pantry, and the Little Free Pantry. Thank you!

POINSETTIA FUND: We are accepting memorials and honorariums for the Poinsettia Fund again this year through next Sunday, December 10th. 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.**

YOUTH CHRISTMAS SHOPPING: The youth will shop for CDC families in need this afternoon immediately following the worship service. **Thank you to the congregation for your support. You contributed over \$900 to this wonderful ministry!**

CIRCLE MEETINGS: The Sarah Emily and Eve Circles **will both meet this Tuesday, December 5th**, in All Saints’ Hall at 10:00am, and 5:30pm, respectively. Both Circles will study Lesson Five in the Horizons Bible Study, “Sacred Encounters,” led by Dr. Torrey, followed by special music by Steve Ellison in the Sanctuary.

POTLUCK LUNCH AND CAROL SING: All are invited to lunch next Sunday, December 10th, following our worship service. Bring your favorite dish and request your favorite carols to sing.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – SPECIAL EVENTS & SERVICES:

Potluck Lunch & Carol Sing – 12:00pm on December 10th

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: **\$6,695.02.**

Total General Offering Year-to-Date: **\$215,349.91, includes \$18,364 online.**

Total General Expenses Year-to-Date: **\$247,225.02.**

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

<u>Serving:</u>	<u>December 3, 2023</u>	<u>December 10, 2023</u>
Pulpit Elder:	Debbie Teeple	Starla Taylor
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Teeple	Debbie Teeple
Ushers:	Holly & Rocky Harden	Liza Holder & Donna Owen
Refreshments:	TBD	TBD
Camera Operation:	Carole Thomas	Ginger Chastain
Sunday Youth Meals:	<i>CDC Christmas Shopping</i>	<i>Youth Christmas Party</i>

Communion Servers: Cindy, Debbie T, Starla,
Nancy, David Mc

Lectionary readings for today:

Pulpit Elder: Debbie Teeple
Isaiah 64.1-9
Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13.24-37

Lectionary readings for next Sunday:

Pulpit Elder: Starla Taylor
Isaiah 40.1-11
Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3.8-15a
Mark 1.1-8

Church Activities and Events This Week:

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

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, Dec 3	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship Service – 1 st Sunday of Advent	Sanctuary
	12:00pm	Youth Christmas Shopping	
Monday, Dec 4	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	9:00am	Christmas Cookie Packing & Mailing	ASH Kitchen
	11:00am	Centering Prayer	Parlor
	6:00pm	Girl Scouts	Ed Bldg/ASH
Tuesday, Dec 5	9:00am	Jane B Morris Service & Kerosene Fund	Church Office
	10:00am	Sarah Emily Circle Meeting	All Saints' Hall
	4:30pm	Onsite Prayer Group	ASH
	5:30pm	Eve Circle Meeting	ASH
Wednesday, Dec 6	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 7	12:00pm	DEADLINE – Bulletin & Cliffnotes	
Friday, Dec 8		<i>Office Closed</i>	
Saturday, Dec 9	1:00pm	Pickens Fire Dept Christmas Event	All Saints' Hall
Sunday, Dec 10	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship Service – 2 nd Sunday of Advent	ASH
	12:00pm	Potluck Lunch & Carol Sing	ASH
	6:00pm	Youth Christmas Party	Anna's House

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

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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Instagram: www.instagram.com/pickenspresbyterian