

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 *“Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn”* Arr. Paul Taylor

***Call to Worship & Lighting the Advent Candle** Starla & Mark Taylor

... 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.

We name this candle Christ.

... to spring up before all the nations.

***Advent Wreath Song vv. 1-5** The Candle of Hope (by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

1. *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.

2. *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.

3. *The candle of joy reminds us to sing,*

For God is at work to do a new thing.

The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.

God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

4. *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.

5. *The Christ candle's light that shines for us here*

Tells out the good news that God has come near!

God came, a poor baby, in one time and place,

To show all creation the wealth of God's grace.

***Advent Wreath Prayer**

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of Christ's salvation this week, help us to become the signs of Christ's salvation 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 on earth. Help us to shine like stars in the world. Amen.

*Hymn #41

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

The Church Confesses

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, in Christ you were born a humble child, love-made-flesh, God-with-us. Forgive us when we fail to follow in your way of humility, love, and peace. Free us to see your Light reflecting in the faces of friends and family, neighbors and strangers, enemies and friends, and make us shine forth with your love. . . . (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 Roy Stoddard

1st Scripture Reading *Isaiah 61.10-62.3*

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

Special Music

*“We Three Kings”
Steve Ellison, Piano*

Arr. Larry Shackley

2nd Scripture Reading *Luke 2.22-40*

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

Time with Young Disciples

Sermon

“The Message of the Birds”

*by Kate Westerlund /
Feridun Oral*

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 #22

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Offering

Offertory

“Away in a Manger”

Arr. Greg Howlett

*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 #29

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*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

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”

Arr. 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>
*Peggy Gilliam (Jimmy's Mother)	health concerns
Jeanne Bowen.....	health concerns
Mary Dawn Mills (Niece of Raymond & Margaret Dawkins)	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.

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.

OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed tomorrow, January 1st.

CIRCLE MEETINGS: The Sarah Emily and Eve Circles **will both meet this Tuesday, January 2nd**, in All Saints' Hall at 10:00am, and 5:30pm, respectively. Both Circles will study Lesson Four in the Horizons Bible Study, “Sacred Encounters.”

ELDER CLASS OF 2026: During our worship next Sunday, January 7th, the following will be ordained and/or installed into the Elder Class of 2026: Joe Padgett, Jeff Price, Sharon Stark, and Trustee: Norm Rentz. We are thankful to God for the service of the Elder class of 2023: Ken Acker, Roger Gettys, Rocky Harden, Roy Stoddard, Ken Townsend, and Trustee: Allison Ranson.

MLK JR DAY EVENT: All are invited to come join with your faith community on Monday, January 15th, to celebrate our Annual Unity Celebration marking Martin Luther King Jr Day hosted by our siblings at Griffin Ebenezer Baptist Church and other area churches. There will be a community breakfast at 9:00am with a program to follow. If you would like to help, come early to cook, set-up, serve or clean-up, contact Jo Anne Gessell at 864.650.6524.

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: **\$2,847.00.**
 Total General Offering Year-to-Date: **\$228,024.89, includes \$19,864 online.**
 Total General Expenses Year-to-Date: **\$275,275.49.**
Contributions Needed Weekly to Maintain 2023 Budget: \$5,316.60.

<u>Serving:</u>	<u>December 31, 2023</u>	<u>January 7, 2024</u>
Pulpit Elder:	Roy Stoddard	Robert Simms
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Teeple	Debbie Hendricks
Ushers:	Christa & Dennis Schwab	Leo Tilley & Jim Mahanes
Refreshments:	TBD	TBD
Camera Operation:	Carole Thomas	TBD
Sunday Youth Meals:	<i>No Youth Meeting</i>	
Communion Servers:		Ken A, Rocky, Robert, Roy, TBD
<u>Lectionary readings for today:</u>		<u>Lectionary readings for next Sunday:</u>
Pulpit Elder: Roy Stoddard		Pulpit Elder: Robert Simms
Isaiah 61.10—62.3		Genesis 1.1–5
Psalms 148		Psalms 29
Galatians 4.4–7		Acts 19.1–7
Luke 2.22–40		Mark 1.4–11

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 31	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship Service – 1 st Sunday after Christmas	Sanctuary
Monday, Jan 1		<i>Office Closed – New Years Day</i>	
Tuesday, Jan 2	9:00am	Jane B Morris Service & Kerosene Funds	Church Office
	10:00am	Sarah Emily Circle Meeting	All Saints' Hall
	4:30pm	Onsite Prayer Group	ASH
	5:30pm	Eve Circle	ASH
Wednesday, Jan 3	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, Jan 4	12:00pm	DEADLINE – Bulletin & Cliffnotes	
Friday, Jan 5		<i>Office Closed</i>	
Saturday, Jan 6			
Sunday, Jan 7	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	11:00am	Worship Service – Baptism of the Lord	

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

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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Facebook: www.facebook.com/PickensPresbyterian ◦ Twitter: www.twitter.com/PickensPres ◦

Instagram: www.instagram.com/pickenspresbyterian