



First Presbyterian Church **PresbyNews**

December 2023

Dear First Pres Friends,

What a wonderful first few weeks it has been here in Cheraw! It has been a joy to meet and get to know you fine folks! My wife, Jenny, and I love being here and getting to know everyone while we continue unpacking our things. At the same time, I have gotten the chance to get to know the Youth here and what a wonderful group they are!

I have also had the chance to have breakfast with some of the congregation's children at Faith Christian Academy for their annual Pastor's Breakfast. It was great to get to know some of our children and their teachers more in this way. There were other Pastor's at the meal as well, but I believe we were all a little preoccupied to meet each other formally but I am hoping to do that soon as well!

In the same vein, I went to the Presbytery Meeting on November 9th, where I met many of the Pastors and Elders throughout our Presbytery of New Harmony. This meeting was a great way for me to meet others sharing in our Presbyterian Ministry throughout South Carolina! I was introduced to the Presbytery at this meeting, where they announced I would be serving on the Committee on Ministry starting in January!

As we look ahead together, there are many exciting Sundays here in your church's life! This upcoming Sunday, December 3rd, 2023, I will preach on a passage from the Gospel of Mark as we kick off the Season of Advent! Weiz has many great things planned through the bell ringing, a Christmas Pageant on the 10th, and a Lessons and Carols service on the 17th. This will then be followed by a service at our usual time on Christmas Eve and a Christmas Eve service that evening. This will be a great time as we celebrate this season together!

This is an exciting time to be here, and I am so thankful to be called here to be your Pastor! I am truly looking forward to getting to know all of you and your families and growing in faith together!

Blessings,

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

MUSIC & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By Mary Louise Baker

Sunday School Classes

- **Parlor Class**— The Parlor Class is currently studying, “The Jesus I Never Knew,” by Yancey and will begin their Advent series “Because of Bethlehem” by Max Lucado on December 3rd. In January, they will begin the Rick Warren series, “Created to Dream.”
- **Fellowship Class**—The Fellowship Class meets each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Building. Please join us during this Advent Season as we study *The Journey to Bethlehem*, by Adam Hamilton. Following this Advent Study, we will join Max Lucado as he leads us through a study called, *Footsteps of a Savior*, beginning in January. We offer friendly faces, plenty of free coffee, and sometimes we even have cookies! Look forward to seeing you!
- **Young Adult Class**—The Young Adult class just finished our first SS series and will meet again for SS in January. We are still deciding/discussing the next curriculum to study.
- **Children’s Class**—Our children’s SS class meets upstairs and is going strong as they continue to study the Gospel Project which features a 5-week Advent/Christmas study.
- **Preschool Class**—meets downstairs and is also studying the Gospel Project. They enjoy playtime with fun toys & activities afterwards!
- **Nursery available (downstairs)**



Mark your calendars! Our Chancel Choir will be presenting nine “Lessons & Carols,” on Sunday, December 17, during the 11 a.m. service. Come & support our music ministry!

Christmas Pageant rehearsal Wednesday, 12/6, 3:30-4:45p.m. and Saturday, 12/9 10:30a.m.-12:30p.m. with Pizza provided by the Malloys &



Longs!

No Fun Program 12/13, 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, or 1/17. We will have Fun Program on 1/10!

No Chancel Choir 12/20, 12/27, or 1/3. Rehearsal will resume 1/10. No Chancel Choir on 1/17.

THE CHILDREN OF FPC PRESENT



The First Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
11:00 AM
300 MARKET ST. CHERAW, SC

Join us!

Join us for the annual Christmas pageant, "The First Christmas" on Sunday, December 10 at 11:00a.m.!

White Christmas

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 13
5:30 P.M.

COVERED DISH

Santa Claus will be here!

Youth bells to ring

Missions will be collecting donations for Pee Dee Coalition



Upcoming December & January Dates

12/3 Youth Bells & Fun Program to ring handbells during 11 a.m. service

12/3 Chancel Choir Practice 6-7:30p.m.

12/6 Xmas Pageant Rehearsal for Fun Program & ages 3-5 yo 3:30p.m.-4:45p.m. No Chancel Choir

12/9 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. with Pizza Provided for lunch!

12/10 Christmas Pageant at 11a.m. in sanctuary. Children need to be at church by 10:00a.m.

12/13, 12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/17 No Fun Program

12/20, 12/27, 1/3, 1/17 No Chancel Choir

12/13 White Christmas 5:30p.m. in Fellowship Building

12/17 Chancel Choir Lessons and Carols at 11 a.m.

12/24 Christmas Eve with Trumpet & Organ at 11 a.m.

12/24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m.

12/31 Fifth Sunday Morning worship service in Fellowship Building; no acolytes

Nursery Volunteers

Our church is growing and we are so excited. The number of children attending nursery during worship has increased and we need your help!

We ask that **any adult** who is willing to keep the nursery during worship, please sign up at the link listed below. We ask that **parents** with a young child attending nursery, please help us by signing up for a Sunday every other month. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer in our nursery.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0545afaf22ab9-nursery#/>



Presbyterian Women News

Communion

December 3- Cathy Chapman and Sue Funderburk

January 7- Marion Anderson and Becky Childers

Youth Supper - December 10

Becky Childers

Marion Anderson

Gerry Rogers

Miriam Stricklin

Bible -Circle Meeting

December 6 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Building

January 3 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Building

Congratulations to Cathy Chapman on receiving the Honorary Life Membership Award this year!

This year PW collected thirteen Christmas Shoe Boxes. Thank you everyone who participated!

Fellowship Committee News

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone for participating in Friendsgiving. The food was wonderful!

Our next event is our annual White Christmas Covered Dish Meal on Wednesday, December 13 at 5:30pm. We have youth bell ringers playing and a visit from St. Nick! Donations will be taken up for the Pee Dee Coalition. Come join in the fun!

The church sanctuary now has a hearing loop installed. This is a system that sends the audio captured on the microphones directly into a hearing aid worn by anyone in the congregation. The system provides the cleanest, clearest sound imaginable for hearing aid wearers and does not require a headset, as it works with any hearing aid that has a T-coil. We also have a limited supply of loop receivers and headsets that can be used during worship if your hearing aid is not equipped with a t-coil. For assistance during worship, feel free to ask an usher.

If you wear a hearing aid and are unsure if it is equipped with a T-coil, please consult with your audiologist.

Prayer Changes Things

**Gerry & Bobby Rogers; Ina Coggeshall
Gray & Bea Sloop
Bennie and Benny Lou Moore;
Jodi Reid (cancer)
Beth O'Neal
Elsie Rainey (Shirley Brock's sister)
Jo Ellen Stewart
Gloria Turner
M. J. Martin
Emma S. Hamden
Keller Smith
Luann Murphy (friend of Weiz Baker)
Kitty G. Grubb (niece of Brother Davis)
Rickey Sellers
Elizabeth "Nubbin" Brown (Miriam
Stricklin's sister)**



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Libby Knight in the death of her sister-in-law, Donna M. Bilby.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jim Funderburk and his family upon the death of his brother, William "Bill" Barnes Funderburk.



Calendar Of Events

3	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
4	8:30 am	MMO
5	12:00 pm	At Ease Lunch
	5:30 pm	Christian Education
6	8:30 am	MMO
	10:00 am	PW Bible Study
	3:15 pm	Fun Program
7	6:30 pm	Mission Outreach
10	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
	2:00 pm	Membership Team
11	8:30 am	MMO
12	6:00 pm	Worship Team
13	8:30 am	MMO
	5:30 pm	White Christmas Supper
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal
17	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
18	8:30 am	MMO
19	6:00 pm	Session
20	8:30 am	MMO
24	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
	5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service
25		Merry Christmas
31	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship

December Birthdays

2-	Jackson Tucker
5-	Jim Conn
8-	Ashley Driggers
12-	Betty Davis, Jacob Goddard
14-	Libby Pierce
15	Duward Angle
16-	Bobby Rogers, Caroline Tinsley, Bill Laney
17-	Bennie Moore
19-	Mary Gullede
21-	Gail Ingram
22-	Christie McLeod
23-	Jordan Smith
30-	Elleigh Evans, Bobbie Jones, Dan Sansbury

Upcoming Events in January, 2024

Elders will be installed on January 14, 2024.
The four elders-elect are Mary Anderson,
Richard Pierce, Kristen Miller and
Andrew McLeod.

**The Church Office will be closed on
January 15th for Martin Luther King
Holiday**



Birthdays

1	Blake Tillman, Beth Witherspoon
2	Gina Goddard
3	William Evans
5	Mary Louise Baker
6	Elizabeth Hydrick
8	Rickey Pace
9	Sue Funderburk
10	Allison Evans
11	Jean Page Watson
17	Bea Sloop, David Evans, Lori Beth Evans
22	Cru Chapman, Jessie Tillman
23	Michael Chapman
24	Marleigh Evans
29	Campbell Harris

January

1		Happy New Year Office Closed
3	10:00 am	PW Bible Study
7	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
8	8:30 am	MMO
10	8:30 am	MMO
	3:15 pm	Fun Program
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir
11	10:00 am	Giving Ministry
14	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
15		Office Closed
17	8:30 am	MMO
18	5:30 pm	Session
21	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
22	8:30 am	MMO
23	5:00 pm	McArn Meeting
24	8:30 am	MMO
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir
28	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
29	8:30 am	MMO
31	8:30 am	MMO
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir