



**First Presbyterian Church
Cheraw, SC**

DECEMBER 2025

Dear First Presb Friends, Friends,

Merry Christmas, y'all! What a month it has been since I last saw everyone! It has been a busy and joyous season in the life of our church as well as in Jenny's and mine! As we look ahead this month, I have a few announcements about upcoming events that I would like to bring to your attention.

First, be sure to keep an eye out for our upcoming Advent-related events here at the church, as we have some exciting events planned and would love to include as many of you as possible. We had a lovely Christmas Pageant on December 7th in the sanctuary, and we had quite a wonderful cast this year! Also, don't forget that this upcoming Sunday, December 14th, we will have our Christmas Cantata after church at 4 PM. We have a regular Advent Sunday service at 11 AM that morning.

Also, right around the corner are a few special services in the life of our church! Christmas Eve will be at 5:30 PM on a Wednesday this year. We will be having Communion by Intinction this year during this service. Also, our 2026 Stewardship Campaign is right around the corner, and I know the Giving Team has been hard at work getting everything planned for that, with a meal planned for the first Sunday of February! Keep an eye out for more information soon!

Lastly, while this is a special time in the life of our church, let us also remember those on our prayer list as it continues to grow. We are who we are by the grace of God, so let us share in that same love God always shares with us with one another. During these difficult seasons, please keep those on our Prayer List and their families in your prayers, as this continues to be a particularly difficult season in their lives with surgeries, bad news, and good news alike. We are a body built upon the love Christ shared for us, and so we will do what we can to help each other in our various seasons of life!

Blessings,

Rev. Maxwell Michaels



Sunday School Classes

Parlor Class—This month the Parlor Class will continue studying the Advent & Christmas series of *Feasting on the Word*. Adults will explore the hopeful & peaceful future prophesied by Isaiah and express confidence that God is leading them into that day. Be sure to join them each Sunday at 10 a.m. in the parlor!

Fellowship Class—Do you want to learn more about what the scriptures mean for your life today? Then join us in the Fellowship Class Sunday at 10:00 a.m. We are currently studying *Feasting on the Word*, published by the PCUSA and follows the lectionary calendar. We read and discuss a scripture passage each Sunday. If you aren't currently attending Sunday School, please come join us. You will enjoy the fellowship, and we have excellent coffee!

Youth Class—Our Youth Class will continue studying the 12-month curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*. This month our Youth will continue studying the Advent & Christmas series-- *Living in God's Light*. Youth will open themselves to God's transforming vision of hope and peace for their lives and the world. All 6th-12th graders are welcome!

Children's Class—Our Children's class, ages K-5th grade, will continue studying *Feasting on the Word*. This month they will continue study the Advent series, *Peace and Light*, and Christmas. Children will celebrate by identifying God's vision of peace from Isaiah 2. Stay tuned for some new improvements we are making to the classroom!

Preschool Class—(ages 3-4) will meet downstairs in the Louise Carpenter room and will also be studying *Feasting on the Word*. This month they will continue studying the Advent session, *God's Peaceful World*. Preschoolers will hear Isaiah's message of peace and identify ways to live in God's peace. Come join us for FUN activities this month!

Nursery always available (downstairs)

Christian Education & Music Ministry Schedule

- * **Saturday, Dec. 13**—10 a.m. Chancel Choir Cantata Rehearsal
with Dr. Jose Rivera, guest conductor
- * **Sunday, Dec. 14**—Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata 4 p.m.
- * **Wednesday, Dec. 24**—Christmas Eve Service with Communion at 5:30 p.m.
- * **Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31, Jan. 7--** NO FUN PROGRAM/ MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- * **Wednesday, Jan. 14**—Fun Program & Chancel Choir Resume



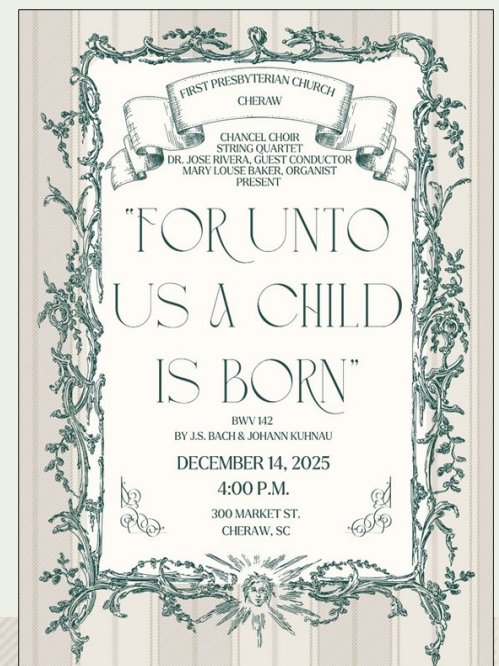
Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

Our Chancel Choir will present, "For Unto Us a Child is Born," a Baroque Christmas Cantata by J.S. Bach and Johann Khunau on **Sunday, Dec. 14th at 4 pm.** The performance will feature the 20-member choir, a string quartet conducted by Dr. Jose Rivera, our organist, Weiz Baker, and high school seniors Jackson Alexander & Watson Price, organists. The cantata was originally sung in German and performed on Christmas Day in 1720 in Leipzig, Germany, and has remained a timeless masterpiece ever since. Our very own Richard & Libby Pierce will sing solos and the cantata will conclude with a substantial organ chorale by J.S. Bach. Our church's rich musical history and organ provides the perfect setting for a Baroque Christmas. Our Chancel Choir is hard at work, preparing for this glorious experience. We hope you will join us! A reception will follow in the F. Building.

Special thanks to Penelope Angle, Lindsay Bennett, Kathie Cook, Susie Ingram, & Tammy Joyce for their dedication to Fun Program each week! The success of Fun Program is mostly dependent on volunteer help, and these sweet ladies have given so much of their time & talents so that our children can have an educational and FUN time!

Many thanks to the Chancel Choir for their hard work and dedication this year and especially this season for rehearsing the Christmas cantata. I will forever cherish your flexibility, dedication, effort, and love.

I love each of you dearly!



Presbyterian Women News

Duties:

Communion

Dec. 24 - Mary Jane Evans

Jan. 4 - Karen Tillman and Becky Childers

Youth Supper

Dec. 21 - Diane Hines and Miriam Stricklin

Jan. 18 - Kathie/ Steve Cook and Jean Page Watson

Circle Meeting

Dec. 3 - 10:00a.m. in the Fellowship Building. Bring a dozen or more of your favorite Christmas cookies for our Cookie Swap.

Jan. 7 - Regular Meeting in the Ladies Parlor

The brass advent wreath was given in memory our dear sister in faith, Peggy Sue Hamden Stewart by her loving family Mac and Ashton Estridge and Cam and Kelli Beck.



Fellowship Committee News

Upcoming Event

December 10- Our Annual White Christmas cover dish at 5:30p.m. Chloe Tillman, Campbell Harris, and Grace Tillman will be sharing their musical gifts for our entertainment. I heard a rumor that a jolly old elf will be making an appearance too. Bring your Christmas list, a camera, and your favorite cover dish! I guarantee you will have a grand time!

We will be taking up our annual donations for the Pee Dee Coalition. Pee Dee Coalition is just one of the many mission projects supported by First Presbyterian Church. Please put our donations in the basket on the table by the door. We appreciate your generous gifts toward helping these families.

As the year comes to an end , I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the hard work the Fellowship Committee Members (Kim Brabham, Tammy Joyce, Laura Katherine Folger, Marietta Burch, Lindsay Bennett, Jean Page Watson, and Steve Cook) have done this year without these folks a lot of our events would not have happen! I have enjoyed working with these wonderful people as the moderator for Fellowship Committee.





Prayer Changes Things

Gerry Rogers

Bea Sloop

Benny Moore

Bobbie Jones

For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses

B.J. Moore

Louise Carpenter

Shirley Brock

Edward Tinsley

Ruth Jackson

Marion Murphy

Nadia Harris

Clytie Roddy

Stasa Petros

Rebecca Harris Ott

Lesley Jean Watson

Wyatt Smith



4- Lynn Smith

5- B J Moore

8- John Joyce

10-Dru Penny

12-Charlotte Folger, James Morgan

13-Grace Tillman

15-Emily Beck

16-Steve Cook, Emma Smith

18-Susan Gainey

19-Nancy Newsom

20-Blair Driggers, Kane Driggers, Alice McLeod

21-Fred Harris

22-Maggie Lloyd

24-Dan Driggers

26-David Brabham

27-Ruth Jackson

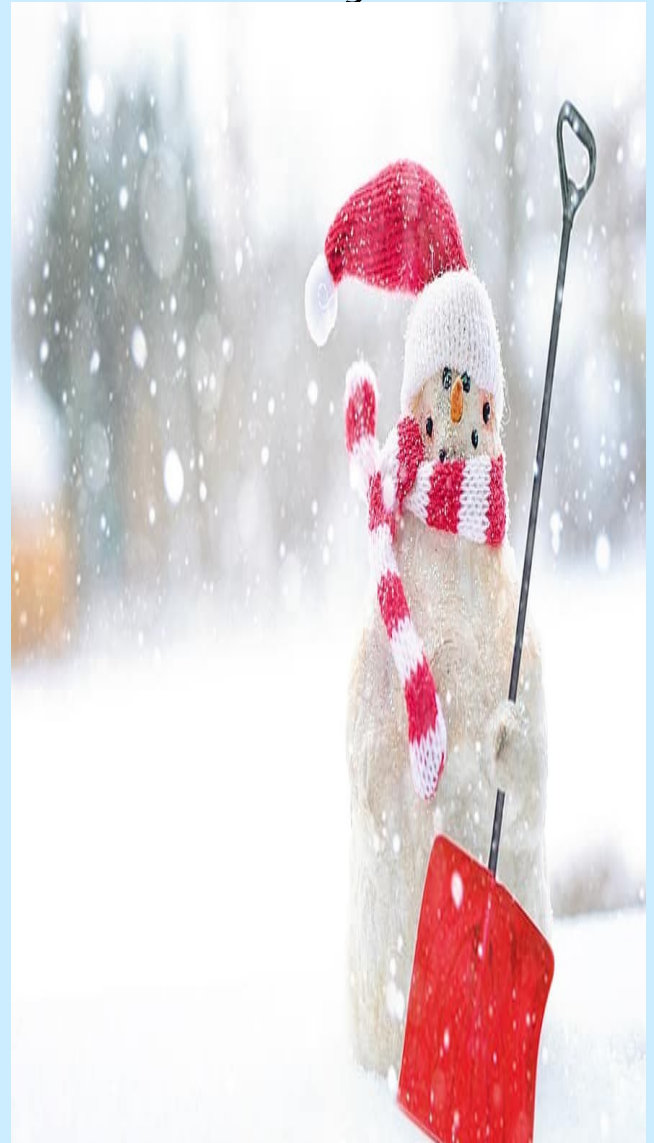
28-Becky Childers, Debbie McCall

29-Sloan Baker

30-Andrew Boykin Tucker

December 2025

Calendar of Events



1	8:30 am	MMO
2	12:00 pm	At Ease Luncheon
3	8:30 am	MMO
	3:15 pm	Fun Program
5	10:00 am	Decorate church
7	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Children's Pageant
8	8:30 am	MMO
10	8:30 am	MMO
	3:15 pm	Fun Program
	5:30 pm	White Christmas
13	10:00 am	Cantata Rehearsal
14	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship
	4:00 pm	Chancel Cantata
15	8:30 am	MMO
17	8:30 am	MMO
	3:15 pm	Fun Program
21	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Chancel Choir
22	8:30 am	MMO
24	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Communion
25	Church Office Closed—Merry Christmas!	
26	Church Office Closed	
28	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship