

January 4, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday of Christmas

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *To Shepherds as They Watch by Night*

Charles Ore

Welcome

Dr. Dan Sansbury

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 98)

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

***Hymn** 687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* (vs 1,3,4,5)

ST. ANNE

Invitation to Confession

Friends, the scriptures tell us that, “*If we say that we have not sinned, the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, our LORD is faithful and just to forgive us, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” [I John 1.8-9]. Let us now make an honest confession of our need to have the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the newborn Christ, transforming our lives into more Christ-like people. Let us join together in prayer.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Almighty God, we confess how often in the past year we did not trust your will for our lives, so we did what seemed best to us at the time. Too often we ignored your Word. Too often we failed to follow the Living Word, Jesus Christ. Forgive us our waywardness, O God. Forgive our lack of faith. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Living Christ, upon us today. In this new year, make us more and more like Christ in all that we say and do. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, the Scriptures also tell us, “*God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that whosoever believes in him will not perish, but will have everlasting life. The Son came into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him*” [John 3.16-17]. We are the world for whom Christ came, Christ died and Christ rose again. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another in the peace of Christ.

***Holy Interruption**

***Gloria Patri**

Choral Anthem *Tell Me the Old, Old Story*

(Chancel Choir)

Doane/Hankey

We Receive God's Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3.1-9

Scripture: Philippians 3.4-14

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “*Losing Something, Gaining Something*”

Dr. Sansbury

Affirmation of Faith (*from the Confession of 1967*)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Hymn 729 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Kristina Langlois

***Doxology** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDRETH

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate and whose Lordship we praise. Amen.

Hymn 828 *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

MORE LOVE TO THEE

Benediction *As with Gladness Men of Old*
(Chancel Choir)

William Dix

Postlude *March of the Kings*

Carl Simone

Please wait until the end of the Benediction Response before exiting.

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk.

Acolytes: Brylee Denham & Jem Morgan

The Church This Week (01/04/2026)

Today	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
	11:00 a.m. Worship
Mon.	8:30 a.m. MMO
Tues.	12:00 p.m. At Ease
Wed.	8:30 a.m. MMO
Sun.	10:00 a.m. Sunday School
	11:00 a.m. Worship
	12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting

Prayer List as of January 4, 2026

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
Nadia Harris
Lesley Jean Watson
Rebecca Harris Ott
Pam Cook (Alison Chapman's mother)
Wyatt Smith

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

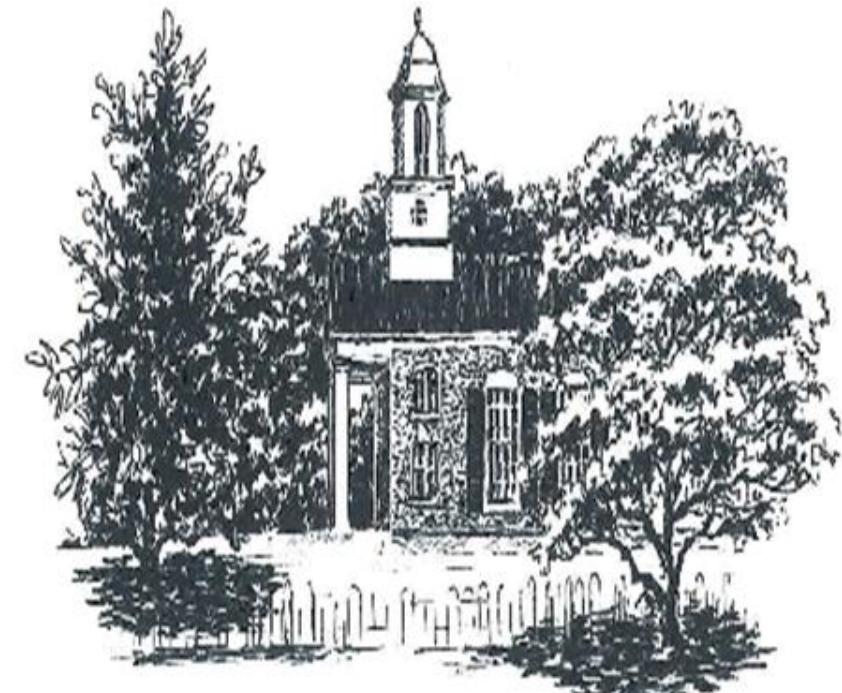
If you would like to place flowers or a plant in the sanctuary for worship service, there is a sign-up sheet outside of the church office. You can also call, or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

Congregational Meeting on 01/11/2026

After service on Sunday, January 11th, 2026, we will hold a Congregational Meeting to vote on reinstating the Board of Deacons for First Presbyterian Church of Cheraw. This will be a six-member Diaconate, composed of three classes of 2 members each.

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for January - March

Jan. 4	Heather Tucker
Jan. 11	Cathy Chapman
Jan. 18	Jean Page Watson
Jan. 25	Kelli Beck
Feb. 1	Brittany Tillman
Feb. 8	Steve Cook
Feb. 15	Charlene Tillman
Feb. 22	Jessie Baker
March 1	Laura Folger
March 8	Mary Jane Evans
March 15	Lainey Baker
March 22	Alison Chapman
March 29	Marietta Melton Burch



Session of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Kelli Beck	Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman
Avery Dickson	Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod
Mary Jane Evans	Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips
Jean Page Watson	Richard Pierce	Harold Watson

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor
Mrs. Danielle Self, Secretary
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Gini Eddins, Director MMO

Sunday, January 4, 2026

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Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
Growing in the Spirit,
Reaching Out with Christ's Love*