

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 2, NO. 50 | November 2–December 4, 2024



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PODCAST FROM DR. GIBBONS

Dr. Gibbons' Fridays@First eblast is now also a weekly podcast. If you'd like to tune in, go to our YouTube channel on Fridays to listen @FirstPresGreenvilleSC (look for the Fridays at First playlist). Along with his witty jokes, you'll hear about discipleship opportunities, special events, and ways you can participate in transforming the heart of the city. We hope you will listen, like, comment, and subscribe!

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Help decorate our church for Christmas by ordering poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones. Order online at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events, or fill out a form from the literature racks. Cost is \$20 each; orders are due by Monday, December 9. The list of dedications will be available online and in literature racks on December 19.

YEAR-END GIVING

The last quarter of the year is the time to complete your charitable giving. You can contribute to FPC with a gift of appreciated stock, a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, or a gift from a Donor Advised Fund. Some gifts take time to process, so please plan ahead to allow sufficient time for processing in 2024. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Kristy Service at 864.565.0929 or Bobby Hoffman at 864.565.0962.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE DECEMBER 15

Because the Sanctuary will be set up for the Christmas@First concert on December 15, we will have two identical worship services at 8:30am and 10:45am in the Worship & Arts Center that Sunday. Please mark your calendar and share this change with your friends and family.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Join us for services at 11:00am and 7:00pm in the Worship & Arts Center; and 2:00pm, 4:00pm, and 11:00pm in the Sanctuary. Mark your calendar and visit www.FirstPresChristmas.com for more details.

LOST AND FOUND TABLE

On Sunday, December 1 and December 8, there will be a lost and found table by the elevators in the Building D main hallway. Please look for any missing items; anything remaining after December 15 will be donated to Miracle Hill Ministries.

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship Ministry, Claire Ripley

DISCOVER FIRST: NEW MEMBER WEEKEND

Are you interested in making First Presbyterian your church home? Discover more about the vision, discipleship, and outreach of FPC! New Member Weekend will be Friday–Saturday, January 31–February 1. Childcare is available for children age 5 and under. For details, contact Linda Sholtis (lsholtis@firstpresgreenville.org). Register at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events.

Missional Ministry, Brian Stewart

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COURSE

The MDC course, open to all covenant partners, is a great preparation for any church leadership role and a prerequisite for officer nomination. You are invited to attend one of the two orientation meetings on Sunday, January 5, at 9:00am in Room B202, or Wednesday, January 8, at 6:00pm in Room B301. To register for the orientation, contact Autumn Clark at aclark@firstpresgreenville.org. For more information, contact Brian Stewart at bstewart@firstpresgreenville.org.

EVENTS

FALL IN EUROPE TRIP 2025

One of the many ways we experience God's blessings is by traveling with friends and family. Dr. Gibbons is hosting two trips in 2025. The June trip to Scotland is full, but 12 spaces are left for Fall in Europe, September 16–26. We will visit Prague, Wittenberg, Eisenach, Munich, Zurich, and conclude in Geneva. Please contact Lindsay Graham at lgtravel@firstpresgreenville.org for further information. Register at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events.

Care Ministry, Don Feuerbach

DIVORCE CARE BEGINS JANUARY 8

DivorceCare is a weekly seminar/support group that will help you heal from the pain of divorce. It's a warm, caring environment led by people who understand what you are going through. Register at DivorceCare.org; enter "Greenville, SC" in "Find a Group Near You"; then click on the First Presbyterian Church listing. Once you register, you'll need to order a participant's manual through this registration portal. The cost is \$20. Childcare is provided.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE DECEMBER 10

All are invited to the beautiful candlelight service on Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30pm in Harper Chapel to honor and remember loved ones who will be especially missed during the Christmas season. The service will include Scripture readings with a time of reflection and meditation, the observance of Holy Communion, special seasonal music, and commemorative candle lighting. A nursery is available by reservation to Evelyn Penkert (864.565.0963 or epenkert@firstpresgreenville.org).

Children's Ministry, Tina Jones

FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL ALMOST FULL

A few spaces remain for the annual Family Advent Festival on Wednesday, December 4, 5:30–7:30pm in Fellowship Hall. It's a great way to kick off the Advent season with your whole family by making a fun craft and enjoying Christmas cookies together! Register at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events for a family ticket that includes one nativity craft, cookies, and beverages. Pizza and additional crafts are available as add-ons when purchasing a ticket.

Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser

ART AND FAITH LUNCH DECEMBER 6

Join us on Friday, December 6, at noon in the Intersection Café to hear Laura Nicholas, Managing Artistic Director for Centre Stage, share about her work and her faith. This is a free event and is open to the public. Bring your own lunch or plan to eat after, and enjoy fellowship and encouragement from fellow Christians in the arts!

THE GALLERIES AT FIRST HOLIDAY HOURS

We would love to see you and your families at our current exhibitions, *Looking for a Place* and *Quilted Faith* over the holidays. Normal open hours are Monday–Friday from 9:00am–3:00pm. Please note these dates the Galleries at First will be closed: November 28–29, December 25–27, and January 1, 2025.

Women's Ministry, Claire Ripley

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

All women are invited to the annual Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 5, at 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a delicious lunch together and hear a devotional by Rev. Dr. Claire Ripley entitled "The Unopened Gift." Cost is \$15. RSVP at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events by Wednesday, December 4. Childcare is available.

Worship and Music Ministry

CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR A CAUSE

A few tickets remain for *Christmas Concert for a Cause*, featuring Graydon Tomlinson and special guests, on Sunday, December 1. A pre-concert Christmas Market will begin at 3:30pm, followed by the concert at 5:00pm in the Worship & Arts Center. Tickets (\$10) are available at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events or at the box office (main reception area) during normal business hours or on Sundays. All proceeds support the Isaiah 117 House.

CHRISTMAS@FIRST: LOVE'S PURE LIGHT

Join us in the beautiful Sanctuary for this year's Christmas@First concert, "Love's Pure Light," on Saturday, December 14, at 2:00pm or 6:00pm, or Sunday, December 15, at 3:00pm. You'll hear Christmas favorites by our 100-voice choir, full orchestra, and handbell choir as we celebrate our Savior's birth through songs of the season. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (12 and under) and available at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events or at the FPC box office (main reception area) on weekdays during normal business hours or on Sundays.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

WORSHIP

8:30am & 11:00am in the Sanctuary

10:45am Ignite in the

Worship & Arts Center

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons

Advent Series: "Love's Pure Light"

Scripture: John 1:1-5

8:30am Nursery

9:30am Children's Sunday School

9:45am Student Life Groups

9:45am Adult Life Groups

10:30am Kids Church

LIVE STREAMING

8:30am & 11:00am:

Facebook.com/firstpresgreenville

YouTube.com/FirstPresGreenvilleSC

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

10:45am:

Facebook.com/firstpresignite

YouTube.com/FirstPresIgniteWorship

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

"Like" and "Subscribe" for easy access

PLEASE NOTE:

Wednesday Bible Studies and meals

have ended for the Fall season. Watch

for new studies coming soon.

LOOKING AHEAD

12/1: Christmas Concert for a Cause

12/4: Family Advent Festival

12/5: Women's Christmas Luncheon

12/10: Service of Remembrance

12/14 & 12/15: Christmas@First Concerts

12/15: Worship time change:

8:30am & 10:45am in

Worship & Arts Center

12/24: Christmas Eve Services

Worship & Arts Center: 11:00am | 7:00pm

Sanctuary: 2:00pm | 4:00pm | 11:00pm

12/29: Sunday Worship Services

Worship & Arts Center: 10:45am

Sanctuary: 11:00am

1/8/2025: Grow@First Winter/Spring

Classes/Meals Begin

More info on all events at
FirstPresGreenville.org/Events

*Have a Blessed
Thanksgiving!*

MEMBER NEWS

BAPTISMS ♦ November 17, 2024

Charles Everett Simmons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mason Simmons (Emma), and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Batson (Susan) and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Simmons (Beth).

SYMPATHY ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to*

Mr. and Mrs. Art Seaver (Sally) in the death of her father, William Donald (Don) Owens, on November 21; to **Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Smith (Riley)** in the death of her grandfather; and to Davis and Stella Smith in the death of their great grandfather.

PRAYER LIST

Bill Anthony, Nancy Adams, Dick Brennecke, Pat Browning, Lin Cundiff, Katherine Davis, Peggy Denny, John Dominick, Bud Fant, Michael Faw, Susan Findley, *Liz Fuqua*, Tasha Garrison, Betsy Guffey, Don Hartz, Mary Haselden, Meredith Holliday, Amy Hunter, Charlie Hutton, Dennis Hutton, Ginny Johnson, Tom Lide, Pat Loft, Anne Lybrand, Jenny McCorkle, Paul McGahee, Raoul Glenn, Mozelle Moore, Jim Nance, Chloris Norman, Myra Phillips, Becky Powell, Joanne Quantz, Ken Rhoden, Louise Robinson, Bill Rogers, Lee Shelton, Barbara Seibel, Carrie Stringer, Claire Taylor, Frank Vickers, John Volpe, Robin Walton, **Lindsay Webb**, *Beryl Wickliffe*, *Carrie Williamson*, Gretchen Horwath Wood, Jan Zimmerman

Bold = New *Italics* = In Hospital



PRAYER RESOURCES

Congregational Care: To pass on information regarding a medical emergency, upcoming surgery, or admittance to the hospital, please call Don Feuerbach, 864.565.0928.

Prayer Appointments: To schedule a confidential appointment with our Healing Prayer Team Members, call 864.565.0960.

Prayer Requests: For general prayer requests, call 864.565.0970.

Healing Prayer Service: Every Tuesday at 6:30pm in Harper Chapel

For Pastoral emergencies, please call 864.235.0496.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
GREENVILLE, SC 29601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

phone | 864.235.0496

website | FirstPresGreenville.org

email | contactus@firspresgreenville.org

facebook | facebook.com/FirstPresGreenville

instagram | @FPCGreenville

mobile app | FPC Live

TELEVISION

First and Foremost Program
on WHNS-TV FOX Carolina
Sundays at 10:30am

ONLINE
GIVING



WHAT'S INSIDE

November 28–December 4, 2024

Advent Sermon Series

New Podcast with Dr. Gibbons

The Galleries at First Holiday Hours

Christmas Concert for a Cause

Art and Faith Lunch

Service of Remembrance

For more information about
the ministries of FPC, visit
FirstPresGreenville.org

NOVEMBER 28–DECEMBER 4, 2024



ADVENT SERIES | JOURNEY THROUGH JOHN 1

LOVE'S PURE LIGHT

Advent is the season when we look forward with great anticipation to celebrating the coming of Christ at Christmas. During Advent we will be exploring the opening chapter of John's Gospel, which has so much to teach us about the miracle of the Incarnation and all that is involved in the coming of the Messiah.

DECEMBER 1

John 1:1-5

DECEMBER 8

John 1:6-13

DECEMBER 15

John 1:14-18

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