

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 2, NO. 52 | December 12-18, 2024



ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBER
Please join us in welcoming Sarah Emore to Congregational Care ministry. She lives in Simpsonville with her husband, Phil, and their dog, Rosie. Sarah enjoys reading, baking, and gardening. She loves attending worship and serving her church, Five Forks Methodist.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE THIS SUNDAY

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 share this change with your friends and family.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BOOKS BY DR. GIBBONS

The children in your life will love the 3-part series of Christmas books written by Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons and illustrated by Janet Grant: *A Child Remembers*, *Luke's Christmas Story*, and *Cool Yule*. Each book follows young Thomas and Amy as their family prepares to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. The books, which are sold as a set for \$35 or individually for \$15, are available in the First Pres bookstore, Books & Gifts@First.

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 FirstPresChristmas.com for more details. **PARKING:** Please use the Richardson Street Parking Garage if you are able. The parking closest to the church will be reserved for seniors and those with disabilities.

SUGGEST OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR

To help build a slate of church officers for election next year, members of the congregation are invited to suggest individuals to serve as Elders or Deacons. The officer nominating committee will contact those recommended and invite them to explore a possible call to leadership through the FPC Ministry Development Course beginning in January. Please submit your recommendations by email to Autumn Clark at aclark@firstpresgreenville.org.

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.

PERSPECTIVES COURSE BEGINS JANUARY 2025

The Perspectives Course is a comprehensive study of God's global movement to bring His glory from all the people groups of the earth. This 15-week course begins Thursday, January 16, 6:30–9:15pm in Room D305. If you're not sure, try the first two classes for free. Discounted registration is available until December 31. To register, visit Perspectives.org/courses/greenville-sc-spring-25/. For more information, contact Kelli Morrison at 864.380.9611 or Brian Stewart at bstewart@firstpresgreenville.org. If you need childcare, contact Evelyn Penkert at epenkert@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.

Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser

RESURRECTION LETTERS COMES TO FIRST PRES

Join us on Thursday, April 3, 2025, in celebrating the victory of Christ's death and resurrection with Andrew Peterson's *The Resurrection Letters* tour! Tickets are on sale now and they make great Christmas presents. Click the QR code for tickets and more information. There are a limited quantity of special Q&A add-ons available, so hurry before they're all gone!



First Pres Academy, Vicki Burr

FPA ACCEPTING NEW STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Applications are now open for all new families interested in applying to First Presbyterian Academy for the 2025–26 school year. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Please visit FirstPresAcademy.com for more information.

First Pres Nursery School, Beth Plyler

SUMMER@1ST REGISTRATION IN JANUARY

Summer@1st is designed for children 3 months to rising K-5 for six weeks during the months of June and July. Camp is full of fun-filled activities, free play, crafts, snacks, music, playground time, and of course, daily Bible lessons. Flexible registration and sibling discounts are available. Registration begins January 13, 2025. Go to FirstPresNurserySchool.org and click on Summer Enrollment. Questions? Email Director Beth Plyler at bplyler@firstpresgreenville.org.

Light & Life Ministry, Don Feuerbach

VIALBE PLAY TICKETS ON SALE NEXT WEEK

The Light & Life Ministry has announced an encore performance of the one-act play, *Viable*, on Friday, January 24, here at FPC. *Viable* provides an avenue to healing for anyone who has experienced the painful, emotional, and spiritual impact of abortion. It is a heart-warming, triumphant story of a mother heavy-laden with secret shame, sorrow, and self-condemnation for 30 years because of her choice—until she experiences the healing, renewing, and restorative love of Jesus Christ in a most unexpected and unusual way. Tickets go on sale December 16. Proceeds will support Lifeline Children's Services—visit lifelinechild.org for more information.

Travel, Lindsay Graham

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 lgravel@firstpresgreenville.org for further information. Register at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events.

Worship & Music Ministry, Susan Messer

CHRISTMAS@FIRST—ONLY A FEW TICKETS LEFT

Only a few tickets remain for the Saturday evening performance of this year's Christmas@First concert, "Love's Pure Light." Get your tickets for Saturday, December 14, at 6:00pm, by going to FirstPresGreenville.org/Events. The concert features Christmas favorites by our 100-voice choir, full orchestra, and handbell choir. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (12 and under). You won't want to miss this wonderful event.

More information on all events can be found at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

WORSHIP*

8:30am & 10:45am in the
Worship & Arts Center

*Service changes due to
Christmas@First concerts

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons

Advent Series: "Love's Pure Light"

Scripture: John 1:14-18

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:

[Facebook.com/firstpresgreenville](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresgreenville)

[YouTube.com@FirstPresGreenvilleSC](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresGreenvilleSC)

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

10:45am:

[Facebook.com/firstpresignite](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresignite)

[YouTube.com@FirstPresIgniteWorship](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresIgniteWorship)

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

"Like" and "Subscribe" for easy access

GROW@FIRST WINTER/SPRING

Begins January 8, 2025

Watch for the Grow@First Winter/
Spring brochure online and in literature
racks next week.

LOOKING AHEAD

12/24: Christmas Eve Services

11:00am | Worship & Arts Center

2:00pm | Sanctuary

4:00pm | Sanctuary

7:00pm | Worship & Arts Center

11:00pm | Sanctuary

12/29: Sunday Worship Services

Worship & Arts Center: 10:45am

Sanctuary: 11:00am

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

Classes/Meals Begin

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: December 25–27 and January 1, 2025.

MEMBER NEWS

SYMPATHY ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to*

Mrs. Hazel Winstead in the death of her husband Philip Winstead Jr. on November 24.

IN MEMORIAM

Philip Connor Winstead Jr. ♦ *December 10, 1935 – November 24, 2024*

PRAYER LIST

Bill Anthony, Nancy Adams, Dick Brennecke, Lin Cundiff, Peggy Denny, John Dominick, Bud Fant, Michael Faw, Susan Findley, *Liz Fuqua*, Tasha Garrison, Betsy Guffey, **Richard Hanks**, Mary Haselden, **Anna Hewitt**, Amy Hunter, Charlie Hutton, Dennis Hutton, Ginny Johnson, Tom Lide, Pat Loft, Anne Lybrand, Jenny McCorkle, Paul McGahee, Raoul Glenn, **Buddy May**, Mozelle Moore, Jim Nance, Chloris Norman, 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

For Pastoral emergencies, please call 864.235.0496.

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



Dr. Gibbons' Fridays@First eblast is now also a weekly podcast. 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!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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website | FirstPresGreenville.org

email | contactus@firstpresgreenville.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

December 12-18, 2024

Grow@First Winter/Spring Brochure
Coming Soon

Children's Christmas Books
by Dr. Gibbons

Resurrection Letters Tour
Tickets on Sale Now

Christmas Eve Services

Christmas@First Tickets
Almost Sold Out

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

DECEMBER 12-18, 2024



COMING SOON TO LITERATURE RACKS & ONLINE

Come Grow With Us in 2025!

Get connected next year and grow in your faith! In our new Winter/Spring Grow@First schedule, you'll find details on Sunday Morning Worship and classes, weekday studies, and music opportunities for all ages.

Questions? Contact Charlotte Joye at cjoye@firstpresgreenville.org.

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