

# CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 1, NO. 36 | November 9–November 15, 2023



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STAFF UPDATE



Please join us as we welcome Amado Alvarez, IT Technician, to the staff at First Pres. He and his wife, Janine, have two daughters, Zoe and Leah. Amado is originally from Colombia, South America, and his wife is from Germany. They enjoy

making classic dishes from both countries of origin, and take turns cooking dinner for their family. We hope you get the opportunity to meet them both soon!

### YEAR-END GIVING

We are in the last quarter of the year, and it is time to think about completing your charitable giving for 2023. In addition to making a cash donation, 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 2023. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Kristy Service at 864.565.0929 or Bobby Hoffman at 864.565.0962.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY

The Session has approved a Congregational Meeting for this Sunday, November 12, at 12:00noon in the Sanctuary and Worship & Arts Center for the purposes of approving changes in Pastors' Terms of Call, electing church officers (Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2026), and the annual meeting of the corporation. We will also hear the report of the Executive Pastor Nominating Committee and vote on their recommendation for a new Executive Pastor. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. Election Procedures brochures containing the slate of nominees are available in the literature racks and online. Look for the Congregational Meeting icon on our website under Ministry Events.

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one on Sunday, November 12 or December 3, please call 864.235.0496.

## DISCIPLESHIP

*Women's Ministry, Leah Cloud*

### WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

All women are invited to the annual Women's Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 7, at 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a Christmas program featuring a short devotional by FPC Covenant Partner Libby Dalton, author of *Libby's Christmas Letters*. A delicious lunch will be catered by Jasmine Kitchen. Cost is \$15 at the door. RSVP by Friday, December 1, to Charlotte Joye at [cjoye@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:cjoye@firstpresgreenville.org) or 864.565.0956. Childcare is available. Please contact Evelyn Penkert at [epenkert@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:epenkert@firstpresgreenville.org) to reserve childcare.

### PREPARE HIM ROOM: CHRISTMAS EVENT FOR WOMEN

Celebrate the birth of our Savior and embrace the true meaning of Christmas at a virtual event at FPC on Friday, December 1, at 6:30pm. Kristi McLelland, speaker, teacher, and college professor, will present *Prepare Him Room*, an invitation to intentionally make space to seek Jesus amid the season. Invite your friends and family! Light refreshments served. This is a free event, but registration is needed to get a head count. Please register on our website under Women's Opportunities.

## EVENTS

*Care Ministry, Tammy Burkhalter*

### CONCERT HONORING OUR VETERANS

The Military Ministry is sponsoring a concert by the Upstate Men's Choir to celebrate our heritage and honor our veterans. Please join us on Veteran's Day, Saturday, November 11, at 11:00am in Harper Prayer Chapel. For free tickets, please visit [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](http://FirstPresGreenville.org/Events). Seats are limited.

*Children's Ministry, Tina Jones*

### FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL

Join us for the Family Advent Festival on Wednesday, November 29, 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 dinner together! Please visit our website under Children's Opportunities to register. Cost is \$25, which covers dinner and a keepsake craft. Limited to 40 families.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX DRIVE

Operation Christmas Child Collection week begins this Monday, November 13, and continues through November 20. Hours are noted on the information sheet inside the shoebox, or visit our website under the Children's Ministry menu. Please drop off your shoebox at the First Pres OCC Collection tent located in the Washington Street parking lot. Plenty of shoe boxes are still available at the children's check-in area and on the first floor of the Worship & Arts Center. If you would like to serve during one of the shifts at the collection site, please contact Teresa Hannon at [twhannon@aol.com](mailto:twhannon@aol.com).

*Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser*

### MYSTERION EXHIBIT OPENING JANUARY 5

Mysterion is postponed until January 5. It will run through July 26. We look forward to sharing these amazing pieces by artist and author Makoto Fujimura with you!

*Worship & Music, Susan Messer*

### CHRISTMAS@FIRST CONCERTS

Mark your calendar for Christmas@First, "Good Tidings of Great Joy," on Saturday, December 9, at 3:00pm and 7:00pm; or Sunday, December 10, at 3:00pm. This popular event features members of the Sanctuary Choir and Ignite Worship team, a piano quartet, full orchestra, our Children's Choirs, and the Resonate! student ensemble. Tickets are available at [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](http://FirstPresGreenville.org/Events) or at the First Pres box office located at the main reception area during normal business hours or Sundays before or after worship.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### USHERS NEEDED

If you are interested in serving as an usher on Sunday mornings, please email Chad Brown at [cbrown@dodgeindustrial.com](mailto:cbrown@dodgeindustrial.com) for more information or to sign up.

*Children's Ministry, Beth Plyler*

### MEALS FOR DSS OFFICE

The Greenville Foster Parent Association assists the Department of Social Services each weekday by providing lunch and dinner to the kids who do not have a placement yet, and for the staff who cares for them. These children still attend school but spend nights in short-term homes or at the DSS office. Meals need to serve at least eight people. To sign up for a meal, please contact Beth Plyler at [bpilyer@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:bpilyer@firstpresgreenville.org).

*Missions Ministry, Brian Stewart*

### HOLLIS ACADEMY ANGEL TREES



Hollis Angel Trees are now up in the Worship & Arts Center, Loggia, and Memorial Hall. Please choose an angel and purchase gifts that will be placed in our annual Christmas Store, where parents of Hollis students will shop for their children's Christmas gifts. You can also purchase gifts by scanning the QR code for the Amazon list and ship the gifts to the church.

*Events Ministry, Caleb Miller*

### EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

With the holiday season quickly approaching, we are in need of several guest services and production volunteers for day and evening shifts to ensure that all events run smoothly. Please email Linda Sholtis ([lsholtis@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:lsholtis@firstpresgreenville.org)) if you are interested in guest services, and email [productions@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:productions@firstpresgreenville.org) if you want to serve with our productions team.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023**  
**Veteran's Recognition**

### WORSHIP

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

**10:45am Ignite  
in the Worship & Arts Center**

**Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons**  
**Sermon Series: God's Wee Rascal**

8:30am Nursery  
9:30am Children's Sunday School  
9:30am Student Life Groups  
9:45am Adult Life Groups  
10:30am Kids Church  
12:00pm Congregational Meeting in the  
Sanctuary and Worship & Arts Center

### LIVE STREAMING

**8:30am & 11:00am:**

[Facebook.com/firstpresgreenville](https://Facebook.com/firstpresgreenville)  
[YouTube.com/@FirstPresGreenvilleSC](https://YouTube.com/@FirstPresGreenvilleSC)  
[FirstPresgreenville.org](http://FirstPresgreenville.org) Watch menu

**10:45am:**

[Facebook.com/firstpresignite](https://Facebook.com/firstpresignite)  
[YouTube.com/@FirstPresIgniteWorship](https://YouTube.com/@FirstPresIgniteWorship)  
[FirstPresgreenville.org](http://FirstPresgreenville.org) Watch menu  
"Like" and "Subscribe" for easy access

## WEDNESDAY

**November 15, 2023**

### PLEASE NOTE:

**This is the last Wednesday for  
Bible Studies and meals.**

### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

**12:30pm–1:00pm • Fellowship Hall**  
**6:30pm–7:15pm • Fellowship Hall**  
Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons

### LIVE STREAMING

**6:30pm–7:15pm • Fellowship Hall**

[Facebook.com/firstpresgreenville](https://Facebook.com/firstpresgreenville)  
[YouTube.com/@FirstPresGreenvilleSC](https://YouTube.com/@FirstPresGreenvilleSC)  
[FirstPresgreenville.org](http://FirstPresgreenville.org) Watch menu

### WEDNESDAY MEALS

**11:45am & 5:00pm • Fellowship Hall**

### MENU:

Thanksgiving Meal  
Baked Turkey with Gravy OR  
Glazed Ham  
Cornbread Dressing  
Glazed Sweet Potatoes  
Seasoned Green Beans  
Baked Macaroni and Cheese  
Seasoned Turnip Greens  
Steamed Rice  
Assorted Desserts

### MEAL PRICES:

Adults: \$10 • Children ages 4-12: \$5  
Children ages 0-3: Free  
Family max: \$35

## PASTOR OF THE DAY

**November 9–November 15, 2023**

For Pastoral emergencies,  
please call 864.235.0496.



MEMBER NEWS

**SYMPATHY** ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to Rev. Ken Hicks in the death of his mother, Edith Hicks, on October 23.*

PRAYER LIST

June Anderson, Waddy “Andy” Anderson, Bill Anthony, Tom Brissey, Bob Browning, Pat Burns, Susan Cable, Lang Cheves, Janet Collins, Marian Dameier, Peggy Denny, Tom Drake, Becky Dueben, Larry Freeman, Mike Freeman, Becky Garcia, Millie Gedney, Doug Gilstrap, Pam Goldman, Natalie Hall, Sally Hall, Fran Hardin, Jack Hardin, Gladys “Hap” Henderson, Ginny Johnson, Tom Lide, Jennifer Loft, John Loft, Pat Loft, Anne Lybrand, Geoff Marsh, Megan McCommons, Mozelle Moore, Chloris Norman, Alex Olyarchuk, Bette Ann Phillips, Shari Phillips, **Lois Pick**, Becky Powell, Mason Powell, Courtney Prosise, Ed Reed, Joann Reed, Ken Rhoden, Catherine Sandifer, Janice Shartle, Jude Smith, **Margaret Thornton**, Carrie Stringer, Shirley Timmerman, Melanie Ann Tinnelly, Margaret Thornton, John Volpe, Don Youatt, Spires Welch, Beryl Wickliffe, Thomas Wilcox, Jan Zimmermann

Bold = New      *Italics* = In Hospital

THE AMAZING



If every member participates, the results would indeed **BE AMAZING!**

Increasing your giving by 1% in 2024 can be your faithful, sacrificial response to God’s call to support the needs of First Pres and the many ministries we assist.



PRAYER RESOURCES

**Congregational Care Director, Tammy Burkhalter:** Call 864.565.0943  
*For emergencies, upcoming surgeries, or hospital information.*

**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.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
GREENVILLE, SC 29601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

phone | 864.235.0496  
website | [FirstPresGreenville.org](http://FirstPresGreenville.org)  
email | [contactus@firspresgreenville.org](mailto:contactus@firspresgreenville.org)  
facebook | [facebook.com/FirstPresGreenville](https://facebook.com/FirstPresGreenville)  
instagram | [@FPCGreenville](https://@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 9–November 15, 2023

*The People Sing! Messiah* Concert

- Women’s Christmas Luncheon
- Operation Christmas Child
- Veterans Luncheon
- Meals for DSS Office
- Christmas@First Concerts

For more information about the ministries of FPC, visit [FirstPresGreenville.org](http://FirstPresGreenville.org)

NOVEMBER 9–NOVEMBER 15, 2023

THE WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY OF  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENVILLE *presents*

THE PEOPLE SING!

*Messiah*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | 6:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

*Tickets \$15 at [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](http://FirstPresGreenville.org/Events)  
or scan the QR code here.*

