

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 1, NO. 40 | December 7–December 13, 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 10 SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In order to prepare for the Christmas@First concert on December 10, we will have two identical Sunday services at 8:30am and 10:45am in the Worship & Arts Center. Mark your calendar and share with your friends and family.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, we will have four Christmas Eve services: 8:30am, 10:45am, 11:00am, and 7:00pm. Our morning worship services will include favorite carols, Scripture readings, lighting of the Advent wreath, and a message by Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons. Our 11:00am service will include a live nativity and our 7:00pm service will conclude with candle lighting as we sing “Silent Night.”

HOLLIS CHRISTMAS STORE THANK YOU!

Our 11th annual Hollis Christmas Store was a huge success! Thank you for your generous giving and for the volunteers who worked in the store. We were able to serve 70 families, representing close to 150 children. The Hollis Ministry Team is beyond grateful for your loving and giving hearts! Merry Christmas to each of you!

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 11.

HEALING PRAYER SERVICE UPDATES

We will not be holding the Tuesday Healing and Prayer Services on December 26 or January 2. Starting January 9, the Healing and Prayer Service will be in Harper Chapel, 6:30–7:30pm.

FPC FOUNDATION UPDATE

The FPC Foundation has two endowments which have matching funds available for any gift received. The endowments are for International Missions and the First Presbyterian Academy. Please prayerfully consider a gift the FPC Foundation designated to one of these endowments and have your gift amount doubled. If you have questions or want more information, contact Bobby Hoffman at bhoffman@firstpresgreenville.org.



FIRST PRES ACADEMY HEAD OF SCHOOL

First Presbyterian Academy is proud to announce that the school board has hired Dr. Rob Brown for the position of Head of School. Dr. Brown comes with over 20

years of experience in education. He is a native of the upstate and received his bachelor's degree from Erskine College. He completed his graduate work at Columbia International University and received his Ph.D in School Leadership. We are very excited for Dr. Brown to assume this leadership position for our school next summer.

DISCIPLESHIP

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COURSE

The MDC course is open to all covenant partners and is 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 7, at 9:00am in Room B202 or Wednesday, January 10, at 6:00pm in Room B301. Register at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events. For more details, contact Brian Stewart at bstewart@firstpresgreenville.org.

College Ministry, Charlie Buchanan CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 17

College-age students are invited to gather for a Christmas party at the Melzer home on Sunday, December 17, at 6:30pm for food, fun, and laughter! Bring a \$10 gift for a game. Questions? Contact Autumn Clark (aclark@firstpresgreenville.org).

Discipleship Ministry, Claire Ripley

NEW MEMBER WEEKEND SAVE THE DATE

Save the date to discover more about the vision,

discipleship, and outreach of FPC! New Member Weekend will be Friday–Saturday, February 9–10, 2024. Childcare is available for children age 5 and under. For details, contact Linda Sholtis (lsholtis@firstpresgreenville.org). Registration is open at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events.

Women's Ministry, Leah Cloud DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circles 3, 6, and 9: Will meet as usual

Circles 7 and 10: Will not meet in December

Circle 1: Will meet the 2nd Tuesday instead of the 4th Tuesday of December. Contact Leah Cloud at lcloud@firstpresgreenville.org for meeting locations and times.

EVENTS

Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser MYSTERION EXHIBIT UPDATES

The *Mysterion* art exhibit will open on Friday, January 5, and run through July 26. We look forward to sharing these amazing pieces by artist and author Makoto Fujimura with you! We expect to welcome many new visitors from the community and need docents to serve our guests. Training is provided. If interested, please contact Chelsea Fraser at cfraser@firstpresgreenville.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

MYSTERY OF BEAUTY ARTS CONFERENCE

The FPC Fine Arts Ministry will host a half-day conference, *Mystery of Beauty*, for the arts community on March 1, 2024, in the Worship & Arts Center. Mark your calendar now to save the date, spread the word, and watch for exciting details coming soon.

First Presbyterian Academy, John Furrow PRESCHOOL ACADEMY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Everyone is invited! Come to the preschool Academy Christmas Program on Friday, December 15, in the First Pres Sanctuary. Downtown campus classes (K2–K4) will perform at 9:30am.

First Pres Nursery School, Beth Plyler SUMMER@1ST REGISTRATION OPENS JAN. 4

Summer@1st is designed for infants through rising K-5 for the months of June and July. Flexible registration and sibling discounts are available. Campers can attend 2, 3, or 5 days per week, and you choose the weeks that work for your family. We are also offering two weeks where 1st grade through rising 5th grade can attend camp. For more information and to register, visit FirstPresNurserySchool.org, or email bplyler@firstpresgreenville.org.

Worship & Music, Susan Messer

LAST CHANCE FOR CHRISTMAS@FIRST TICKETS

Purchase tickets now 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 and at the First Pres box office located at the main reception area during normal business hours and on Sundays before and after worship.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Children's Ministry, Tina Jones

JOIN US FOR THE 2024 FAMILY MISSION TRIP

We are looking for families to share the gospel with refugees from Sudan, Ukraine, and other countries during the family mission trip to Richmond, VA, July 7–14, 2024. Children ages 10 and older may participate. Contact Karen King at kking@firstpresgreenville.org for more details.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We are in need of more production volunteers for upcoming Christmas concerts and Christmas Eve services. No experience is required; training is provided. Please email productions@firstpresgreenville.org if interested.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP

8:30am & 10:45am

in the Worship & Arts Center

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons

Sermon Series:

“Fulfilled—Matthew's Gospel”

Scripture: Matthew 1:18–25

8:30am Nursery

9:30am Children's Sunday School

9:30am Student Life Groups

9:45am Adult Life Groups

10:30am Kids Church

LIVE STREAMING

8:30am:

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 in January 2024.

LOOKING AHEAD

December 9 & 10:

Christmas@First Concerts

December 10:

Sunday Worship Services

in Worship & Arts Center:

8:30am and 10:45am

December 24:

Christmas Eve Services

8:30am | 10:45am |

11:00am (with live nativity) |

7:00pm (candlelight service)

December 31:

New Year's Eve Services

10:45am | 11:00am

PASTOR OF THE DAY

December 7–December 13, 2023

For Pastoral emergencies,
please call 864.235.0496.