

# CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 1, NO. 41 | December 14–December 20, 2023



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA LIST

For those who donated a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, the list will be available in the literature racks this Sunday, December 17, or online at [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](https://FirstPresGreenville.org/Events) under the poinsettia icon.

### 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](mailto:bhoffman@firstpresgreenville.org).

### 2024-2025 FPA ENROLLMENT IS OPEN TO ALL

Enrollment is now open for all families applying to First Presbyterian Academy for the 2024-2025 school year. Enrollments are processed on a first come, first served basis. Visit [FirstPresAcademy.com](https://FirstPresAcademy.com) for details.

### 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.

### FLOWERS FOR SANCTUARY

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one on Sunday, January 7, 14, 21, or 28, please call 864.235.0496.

## 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](https://FirstPresGreenville.org/Events). For more details, contact Brian Stewart at [bstewart@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto: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! Questions? Contact Autumn Clark ([aclark@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto: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](mailto:lsholtis@firstpresgreenville.org)). Registration is open at [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](https://FirstPresGreenville.org/Events).

### NEW SUNDAY LIFE GROUP: FLOURISH

Flourish is a discussion-based Sunday Life Group designed specifically for single women aged 40 and up. The studies for this group will enrich your relationship with God and provide a new perspective on navigating life's struggles. Please join us each week on Sundays at 9:45am in room B313.

## EVENTS

### WONDERS OF PERU TRIP

Join Lindsay Graham and Dr. Richard Gibbons on a sightseeing trip to Peru on July 29-August 6, 2024. Registration will be live at [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](https://FirstPresGreenville.org/Events) on January 9. Look for more details and cost coming soon. For travel questions, please contact Lindsay Graham at [lgraham2729@gmail.com](mailto:lgraham2729@gmail.com).

### Events Ministry, Caleb Miller

#### VENUE AND EVENT SAFETY CONFERENCE

FPC will host a Venue and Event Safety & Security Training Conference from 9:00am–3:00pm (lunch included) on Saturday, January 13. This training event will help develop a culture of safety and is free for First Pres volunteers. Registration is open on our website. Please contact [lsholtis@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:lsholtis@firstpresgreenville.org) for the code.

### Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser

#### MYSTERION EXHIBIT UPDATES

Makoto Fujimura will share an exhibition of his works entitled *Mysterion* in the Galleries at First Pres beginning January 5. Fujimura is the foremost voice in the global conversation on Art and Faith. You are invited to the public opening on Friday, January 5, 6:00pm-9:00pm. For information about the exhibition or interest in serving as a docent, contact Chelsea Fraser at [cfraser@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto: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 Friday, March 1, 2024, in the Worship & Arts Center. Makoto Fujimura will be our keynote speaker. You will not want to miss this conference! 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](https://FirstPresNurserySchool.org), or email [bplyler@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:bplyler@firstpresgreenville.org).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### Missions Ministry, Brian Stewart

#### BOX UP ITEMS FOR MIRACLE HILL

We may not celebrate Boxing Day in the U.S., but if you are cleaning out gently used items, please consider boxing up and setting them aside for Miracle Hill Ministries Yellow Bag project coming to FPC February 25. Suggested donation items include gently used clothing, shoes, handbags, and accessories.

### Events Ministry, Caleb Miller

#### ECO NATIONAL GATHERING COMING TO FPC

We are excited to host over 1500 guests from all over the country at the ECO National Gathering the week of January 29–February 1, 2024. We need several event and guest service volunteers to provide a welcoming experience for those attending. Visit [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](https://FirstPresGreenville.org/Events) under the ECO icon to volunteer.

### SIGN UP TO BE A FIRST PRES AVL VOLUNTEER!

Sign up to volunteer with the AVL Production Ministry at First Pres! Needed positions include Sound, Lighting, Camera, and Video Playback (ProPresenter) operators for all Sunday services, special events, and weekly Bible studies. No experience is required; training is provided. Email [productions@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:productions@firstpresgreenville.org) to sign-up!

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

#### Third Sunday of Advent

### WORSHIP

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

10:45am Ignite

in the Worship & Arts Center

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons

Sermon Series:

"Fulfilled—Matthew's Gospel"

Scripture: Matthew 2:6

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 & 11:00am:

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

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

[FirstPresgreenville.org](https://FirstPresgreenville.org) Watch menu

10:45am:

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

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

[FirstPresgreenville.org](https://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 17:

College Christmas party

### 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

### January 5:

*Mysterion* exhibit opens

### January 7 or 10:

Ministry Development Course

### January 29-February 1:

ECO National Gathering

## PASTOR OF THE DAY

December 14–December 20, 2023

For Pastoral emergencies,  
please call 864.235.0496.



MEMBER NEWS

**CONGRATULATIONS** ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend blessings to Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Burgess (Samantha)* on the birth of a son, Emmett Banks Burgess, on December 4.

**SYMPATHY** ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crain (Nancy)* in the death of her mother, Jim Petty, on December 6.

MEMORIALS & HONORS

CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

*In memory of Jane Coleman* by Sara and Matt Rieser; Mary Jane Myers; Charles M. Timmons, Jr.; Geni and Joe Ramseur  
*In memory of Tom Drake* by Harry and Sheila Bolick  
*In memory of Barbara Ellison* by Joseph W. Tollison

MUSIC MINISTRY FUND

*In memory of Joann Reed* by the Agape-Fellowship Class

PRAYER LIST

Bill Anthony, Tom Brissey, Pat Burns, Susan Cable, Lang Cheves, Diane Cobb, Joe Cole, Janet Collins, Marian Dameier, Peggy Denny, Becky Dueben, **Sylvia Evette**, Larry Freeman, Mike Freeman, Becky Garcia, Millie Gedney, Doug Gilstrap, Pam Goldman, Lucas Groome, Christy Groome, Natalie 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, Katherine Pate, Bette Ann Phillips, Shari Phillips, Lois Pick, Becky Powell, Mason Powell, Courtney Prosise, Ed Reed, Ken Rhoden, Catherine Sandifer, Janice Shartle, Jude

Smith, Carrie Stringer, Shirley Timmerman, Holly Thomason, Melanie Ann Tinnelly, John Volpe, Don Youatt, Spires Welch, *Charlie West*, Beryl Wickliffe, Thomas Wilcox, Frank Vickers, Jan Zimmermann

**Bold** = New     *Italics* = In Hospital

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  
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

December 14–December 20, 2023

Christmas Eve Services

Call for ECO Volunteers

FPA Head of School

College Christmas Party

Ministry Development Course

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

DECEMBER 14–DECEMBER 20, 2023

join us for  
CHRISTMAS  
EVE SERVICES

Sunday,  
December 24

8:30AM | SANCTUARY  
10:45AM | IGNITE WORSHIP  
11:00AM | SANCTUARY  
*Live Activity*  
7:00PM | SANCTUARY  
*Candlelight*

(NURSERY PROVIDED FOR ALL SERVICES)



We look forward  
to celebrating our  
Savior's birth with  
you on Christmas  
Eve. Please invite  
friends and family  
to join us!

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