

# CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 1, NO. 42 | December 21–January 3, 2024



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BOOKS & GIFTS@FIRST

Please note that the bookstore will be closed starting December 24 through January 1.

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN IN DECEMBER

On Sunday, December 24, the nursery suite will open for the 8:30am, 10:45am, and 11:00am services for ages 3 and under. Ages 4 and older will attend worship with their family. On Sunday, December 31, we will have Kid's Church only, for ages 5 and under, beginning at 10:30am.

### 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 each Tuesday.

### 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 details, contact Brian Stewart at [bstewart@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:bstewart@firstpresgreenville.org).

### Discipleship Ministry, Claire Ripley COME GROW WITH US IN 2024!

Get connected next year and grow in your faith! Coming soon in our Winter/Spring Grow@First schedule, you'll find details on Sunday Morning Worship and classes, weekday studies, and music opportunities for all ages. Brochure will be out soon, or visit [FirstPresGreenville.org](https://FirstPresGreenville.org). Questions? Contact Charlotte Joye ([cjoye@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:cjoye@firstpresgreenville.org)).

### 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).

## EVENTS

### WONDERS OF PERU TRIP

Join Dr. Richard Gibbons and Lindsay Graham 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 churches and event venues 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 volunteer code.

### Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser

### MYSTERION EXHIBIT COMING SOON

*Mysterion* exhibit will open in the Galleries at First Pres on January 5. Fujimura is the foremost voice in the global conversation on Art and Faith (and will be at FPC in March! See next announcement). 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)

### MYSTERY OF BEAUTY ARTS CONFERENCE IN MARCH

The FPC Fine Arts Ministry will host a half-day conference, *Mystery of Beauty*, for anyone interested in the topic of art and faith, on Friday, March 1, 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.

### Children's and Music Ministry SUMMER CAMPS AT FPC

It's almost time to sign up for summer camps! Mark your calendars for June 10–13. Registration for Vacation Bible School (rising K5–rising 4th grades), Day Missions (rising 5th–rising 12th grades), and Music Camp (rising 2nd–rising 6th grade) will open January 1. Look for more details coming soon!

### First Presbyterian Nursery, Beth Plyler

### SUMMER@1ST REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 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 for 1st grade through rising 5th grade students to 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

### Care Ministry, Tammy Burkhalter FOOD BASKET MINISTRY

At FPC, we donate to Miracle Hill Ministries and the Greenville Food Bank, but we also try to provide a variety of food items to make a meal (pasta, soup, oatmeal, etc) to families when they come for assistance. Baskets are located in the main hallway at the portico reception area. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Burkhalter [tburkhalter@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:tburkhalter@firstpresgreenville.org).

### Children's Ministry, Tina Jones

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Are you in college? Looking for a summer internship? Our Children's Ministry has opened applications for three full-time intern positions for this summer. For more information, contact Tina Jones at [tjones@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:tjones@firstpresgreenville.org) or call 864.565.0921.

### Missions Ministry, Brian Stewart SAVE 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 AN EVENT OPERATIONS VOLUNTEER!

Sign up to volunteer with the Event Operations 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 24, 2023 Fourth 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: Luke 2:8–20

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### WORSHIP

11:00am in the Sanctuary

10:45am Ignite  
in the Worship & Arts Center

Rev. Charlie Buchanan

Sermon Series:

"Fulfilled—Matthew's Gospel"

Scripture: Matthew 3:1–12

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 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 Orientation

### January 29–February 1:

ECO National Gathering

## PASTOR OF THE DAY

December 20–January 3, 2024

For Pastoral emergencies,  
please call 864.235.0496.



MEMBER NEWS

BAPTISM ♦ December 17, 2023

William Wesley Boyd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Evander Boyd (Ashley)

SYMPATHY ♦ The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to

The Elmore family in the death of Doris Elmore on December 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Riddle (Caroline) in the death of her mother, Evelyn Barringer Topping Crawford, on December 11; and to Hudson and Gracie Riddle in the death of their grandmother.

IN MEMORIAM

Doris W. Elmore ♦ May 4, 1927 – December 17, 2023

MEMORIALS & HONORS

CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Jane Coleman by Mrs. Barbara Weatherford

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY FUND

In memory of Tom Drake by by John E. Trexler; Dick Brennecke; Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Stokes, Jr.; Sue Wilson; Carol Grayson Loyless and Carol Alexander Loyless; Tom and Sheri Ledbetter; Charles and Donna Styles; Andy and June Anderson; Jo and Harry Ussery

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, 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 21–January 3, 2024

- Christmas Eve Services
- New Member Class
- Call for ECO Volunteers
- Summer@1st Registration
- Ministry Development Course

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

DECEMBER 21–JANUARY 3, 2024

Join us on Christmas Eve

8:30AM | SANCTUARY    10:45AM | IGNITE WORSHIP

11:00AM | SANCTUARY *Live Nativity*    7:00PM | SANCTUARY *Candlelight*

(NURSERY PROVIDED FOR ALL SERVICES)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” –Luke 2:8-10

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