

FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 ~ MORNING WORSHIP

Almighty God, we beseech Thee, grant unto Thy people grace that they may wait with vigilance for the advent of Thy Son our Lord, that when He shall arise from Thy right hand to visit the earth in righteousness and Thy people with salvation, He may not find us sleeping in sin, but diligent in Thy service, and rejoicing in Thy praises, that so we may enter in with Him into the joy of paradise, through His merits, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen. ~Book of Common Worship

Welcome and Announcements *Pastor Marty Martin*

Introit *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor*

Call to Worship *Luke 2:8-14*

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

§ **Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 208

§ **Prayer of Adoration** *Pastor Andrew Newman*

Presentation of New Members

*Don and Kim Baret, Bob Bergeson, Bev Cannon,
Joe and Patty Wallwork, Katie West*

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 40:1-11*

*"Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God.
 "Speak kindly to Jerusalem;
 And call out to her, that her warfare has ended,
 That her iniquity has been removed,
 That she has received of the LORD's hand
 Double for all her sins."
 A voice is calling,
 "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;
 Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.
 "Let every valley be lifted up,
 And every mountain and hill be made low;
 And let the rough ground become a plain,
 And the rugged terrain a broad valley;
 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
 And all flesh will see it together;
 For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
 A voice says, "Call out."
 Then he answered, "What shall I call out?"
 All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
 The grass withers, the flower fades,
 When the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
 Surely the people are grass.
 The grass withers, the flower fades,
 But the word of our God stands forever.
 Get yourself up on a high mountain,
 O Zion, bearer of good news,
 Lift up your voice mightily,
 O Jerusalem, bearer of good news;
 Lift it up, do not fear.
 Say to the cities of Judah,
 "Here is your God!"*

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*Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might,
 With His arm ruling for Him.
 Behold, His reward is with Him
 And His recompense before Him.
 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,
 In His arm He will gather the lambs
 And carry them in His bosom;
 He will gently lead the nursing ewes.*

§ **Hymn** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* No. 200
stanzas 1, 3, & 4

Worship through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *The Shepherds' Lamb*
Brad Gregory, oboe

A stable bare, a starlit sky, and under Heaven's watchful eye, a miracle in manger lay, the Lamb of God upon a bed of hay. The first news of this glorious birth was told to those of little worth, who left their flocks, as angels said, to find the Lamb of God in manger bed. The shepherds paused at stable door, looked on the Lamb and in Him saw their own good Shepherd, born a Lamb, themselves the flock within the Shepherd's hand. With shepherds gaze in wonder on the mystery of Heaven's plan; the Shepherd born to live with us, is born to die for us, the shepherds' Lamb.

Prayer of Petition and Supplication *Pastor Newman*

§ **Hymn** *Once in Royal David's City* No. 225
stanzas 1, 2, & 4

Scripture Reading *Matthew 2:1-12* Pew Bible page 957

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ²"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ⁶AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."

⁷Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." ⁹After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Proclamation of God's Word *Pastor Martin*

Talk of the Town

§ **Hymn** *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* No. 211

§ **Benediction**

§ **Corporate "Amen"**

§ *The congregation will please stand.*
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EVENING WORSHIP

Call to Worship *Psalm 95:6-7*

§ **Hymn** *Angels, We Have Heard on High* No. 214

§ **Prayer of Praise and Adoration** *Pastor Marty Martin*

New Testament Reading *Hebrews 11:8-19*

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

§ **Hymn** *Rejoice, All Ye Believers* No. 320

Worship through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *A Winter Night* Children's Choir

Prayer of Confession, Petition, and Intercession *Pastor Martin*

§ **Hymn** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No. 196

Scripture Reading *Genesis 22:1-19* Pew Bible page 20

¹Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ²He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. ⁵Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you." ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

⁹Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹²He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. ¹⁴Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."

¹⁵Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." ¹⁹So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Proclamation of God's Word *Pastor Andrew Newman*
A Coming Son of Abraham

§ **Hymn** *Angels from the Realm of Glory* No. 218

§ **Benediction**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Pew Cards:** If you are new to Fellowship, please help us get to know you by filling out a pew card and dropping it in the offering plate. ~Thank you!*

Christmas Eve Service Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 PM

Nursery will not be provided for our Christmas Eve Service; you are welcome to bring infants/children into the service.



FELLOWSHIP
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

December 15, 2024

Our purpose is to glorify the Triune God by reconciling the lost to Him through faith in Jesus Christ and equipping the saints to serve Him in every area of life.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Matthew 28:19-20

December 15, 2024—Nursery Schedule:

11:00 AM Infant Nursery: Debbie Spink & Robin Patane; Alternate: Katie Moses
11:00 AM Toddler Nursery: Linda DeJong & Stephen Taylor
6:00 PM Evening Nursery: Celanie Martin & Evalee Allman

December 22, 2024—Nursery Schedule:

11:00 AM Infant Nursery: Neil & Brittany Reini; Alternate: Rachel Preston
11:00 AM Toddler Nursery: Tami Gardinier & Jenny Matthews
6:00 PM Evening Nursery: Craig & Sheri Bouvier

FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

1105 Old Spartanburg Road ~ Greer, SC 29650
 (864) 877-3267 ~ office@fellowshippres.org ~ www.fellowshippres.org
 Office hours: Monday—Thursday, 8:30 AM—12:30 PM

Prayer Requests: prayer@fellowshippres.org Announcements: announcements@fellowshippres.org

THE SESSION:

Teaching Elder: Pastor Martin H. Martin
 Ruling Elders: Craig Bouvier, John Kuhfuss,
 Terry Richards, Tim Taylor, Jeff Wayne, Sr.
 Elder of the Month: Tim Taylor

THE DIACONATE:

Deacons: Pat DeJong, Jared Farquhar, Dave Frengel,
 Brian Medlin, Kelly Peterson, Philip Triplett
 Deacon of the Week: Jared Farquhar

ASSISTANT PASTOR: Pastor Andrew Newman

COORDINATOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Pastor Peter Spink

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Steve Lawton

CHURCH INTERN: Greg Horsky

ACCOMPANISTS:

Piano, Beverly Brouwer and Cathy Lawton; Organ, Sheryl Farquhar

MISSIONARIES & BENEVOLENCE MINISTRIES:

Rev. & Mrs. Albert Kona—Albania	Rev. & Mrs. Mark Kuo—Taiwan
Rev. & Mrs. Alonzo Ramirez—Peru	Rev. & Mrs. Gary Watanabe—Tokyo
Rev. & Mrs. Todd Crusey—London	Rev. & Mrs. Rob Hamby—Daniel Island
Rev. & Mrs. John Blevins—NW Knoxville	Rev. & Mrs. Miguel D’Azevedo—Okinawa
Rev. & Mrs. Mikael Romer—Poland/ Ukraine	Rev. & Mrs. Vinicius Pimentel—Brazil
Greenville Theological Seminary	Gospel Reformation Network
Greer Community Ministries	Covenant College
Miracle Hill Ministries	

Having been nominated, trained and sustained in their examination, the **Session presents to the congregation, the following as eligible for election** (to the four year term of 2023-2027) in a **congregational meeting** on **Sunday, January 8**, following morning worship:

Ruling Elder: Craig Bouvier, Tim Taylor
Deacon: Pat DeJong, Dave Frengel, Brian Medlin

Praise the Lord for His goodness in raising up these men and pray for His guidance in the elections to be held **January 12**.

Updating Our Online Directory:

In an effort to keep our online directory current, we are asking members to go to www.instantchurchdirectory.com or the app and view their personal listing.

If **update/ corrections are needed**, you may either send them to directory@fellowshippres.org or simply click on "Edit My Family" to submit changes yourself. If you have not yet signed up, please email directory@fellowshippres.org. ~Thank you!

November 2024 General Fund Summary*

Date:	Budget:	General Fund Giving:	Expenses:	GF Net Total:
Nov 2024	\$57,245.95	\$61,469.18	\$50,905.95	\$10,563.23
Jul 2024—Nov 2024	\$286,229.75	\$260,484.82	\$280,102.78	(\$19,617.96)

November Building Fund Giving: \$31,735.00 Total November Giving (GF + BF): \$93,204.18
Building Fund Total as of 11/30: \$649,751.26 December General Fund Revenue to date: \$75,100.48

*For a full Financial Report, please contact the church office or speak to an Officer.