

GATHERING

Lord God, you have woken me from sleep; the night is gone, the day is here. Enable me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and help me to live honorably this day, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

B. Doerksen
arr. J. B. LeDoux

* CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
that we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths. Our feet are standing within your gates,
O Jerusalem.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

* HYMN 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Cathie Ziegler (8:30 A.M.)

Tim & Mary Lou Schubert (11 A.M.)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For our reveling and drunkenness, forgive us, O God. For our debauchery and licentiousness, forgive us, O God. For our quarreling and jealousy, forgive us, O God. O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* ACT OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Hymn 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:16-24 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 1

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

It Is Well with My Soul

P. Bliss
arr. H. DeCou

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Andy Vloedman

(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)

* **HYMN 92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-29 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 545

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Finding Grace In A Graveyard

Rev. Dr. Don McGarity

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Whiter Than Snow

W. G. Fischer
arr. C. Berry
Hymn 606

* **DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

* **HYMN 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

Rondeau

J. Rameau

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Tom Chamberlain, Greg Dowling, Don McGarity, Mitch Rorick, Andy Vloedman

ELDER ON DUTY: Elizabeth Bolton, Greg Dowling

ACOLYTE: Linden Greer

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Anait Piloyan

8:30 A.M. USHER: Margaret & Howard Lingg; **11 A.M. USHERS:** Roger Bachmann, Paul Bennett, Matthew Morse, Carol Turner

A/V TEAM: Owen Best, Dania Moreno, Robert Richardson, Elijah West

THE CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT OFFERING is being received for three Sundays and provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and students in their time of promise. There are Christmas Joy envelopes in the pews or gifts may be mailed to the church. Please write "Joy Gift" in the memo line. For more information, visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT: We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to Jesse Doyle and family upon the passing of his wife, Barbara Hendrick-Doyle, who joined the Church Triumphant on November 3, 2025.

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT: We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to Marion (Spiegel) Hoffmann and family upon the passing of her husband, Bruce Hoffmann, who joined the Church Triumphant on November 19, 2025.

TODAY, WE BEGIN THE SEASON OF ADVENT, a time of preparation for Christ's birth at Christmas. We are thankful to Rev. Dr. Don McGarity for leading us in worship today, both in giving the sermon and picking the hymns. Also, we are grateful to Anait Piloyan for her musical leadership for today's worship.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

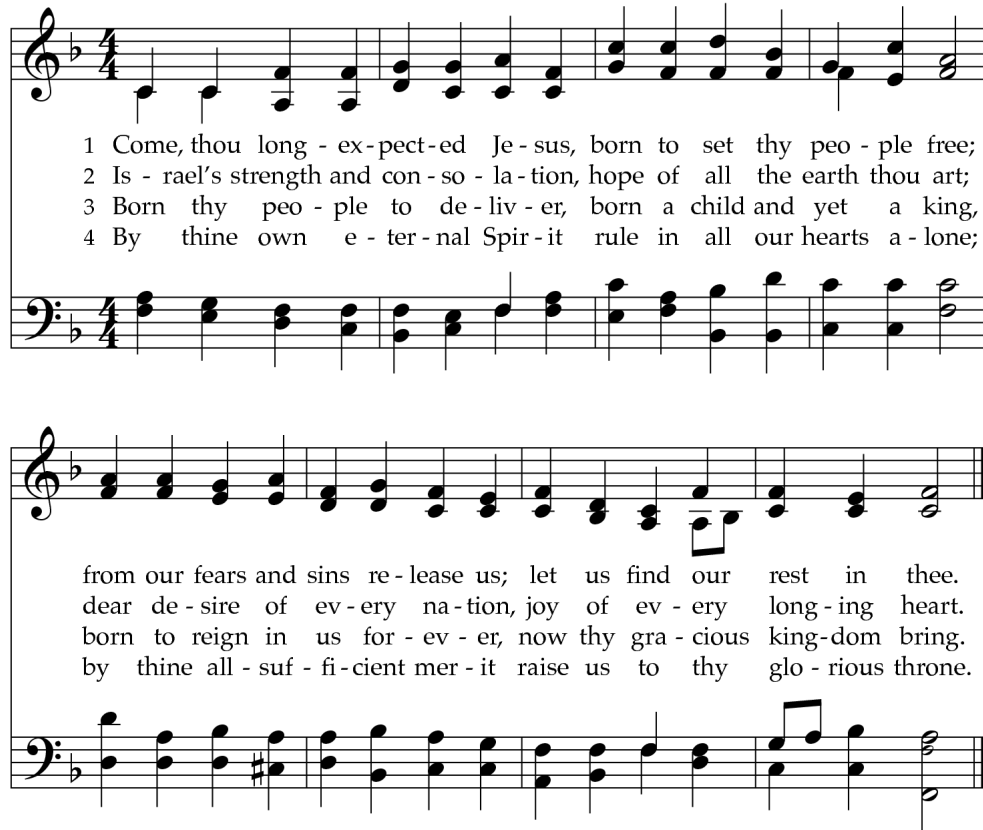
Sun, Nov. 30	9:30 a.m. Advent Workshop	Gordon Hall
Sun, Dec. 7	11:00 a.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
Wed, Dec. 10	7:00 p.m. Handbell Concert	The Atrium
Tues, Dec. 16	12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Concert	Sanctuary
Tues, Dec. 24	5:30 p.m. Prelude	Sanctuary
	6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship	



Senior Pastor
Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org
Director of Music and Organist
Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org
Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry
Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org
Preschool Director
Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org
Business Manager
Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

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Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org
Event Sexton and Music Clerk
Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org
Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill
Sexton - Margaret Hill
Property Coordinator
John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
 MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTTGART
 8.7.8.7
 (alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:16-24 (NRSV)

¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

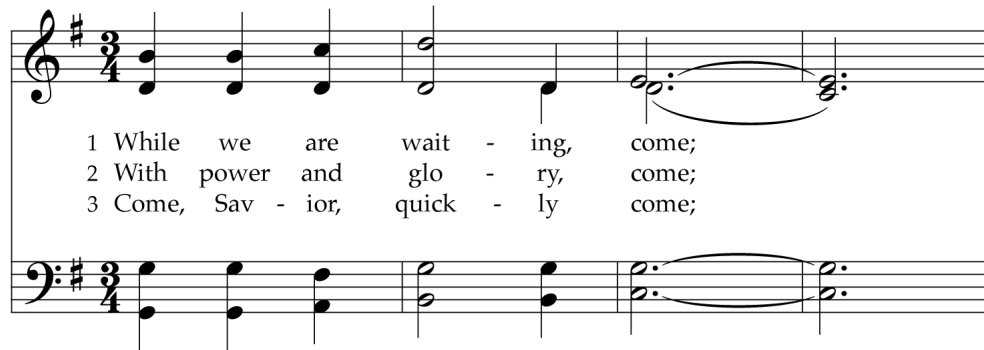
²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

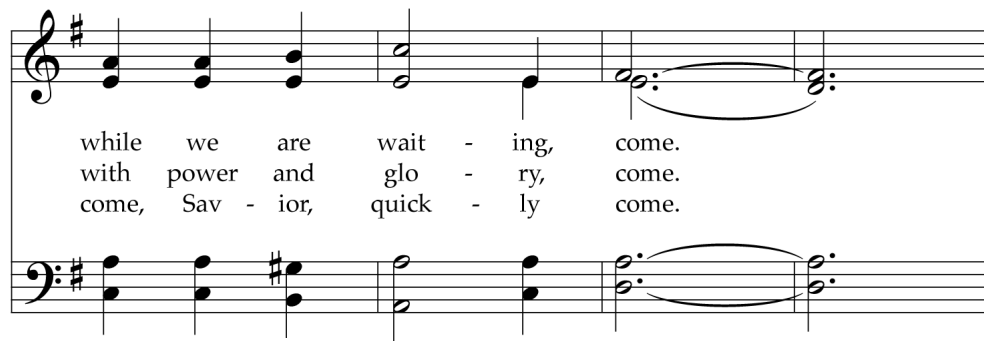
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

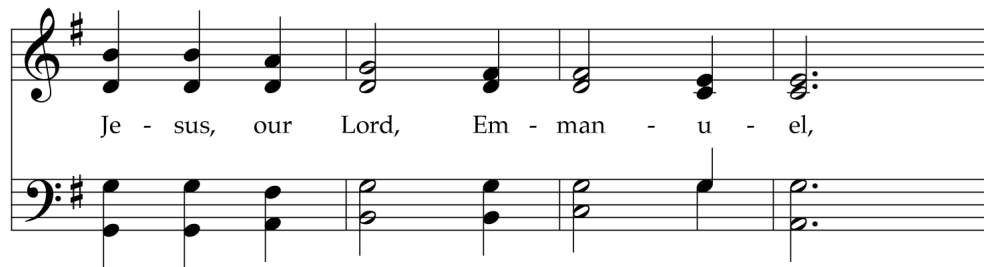
92 While We Are Waiting, Come



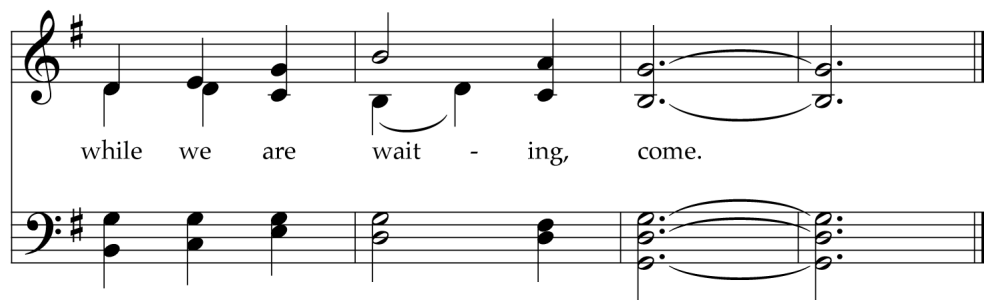
1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;



while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,



while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

TEXT: Claire Cloninger, 1986
MUSIC: Don Cason, 1986
Text and Music © 1986 Word Music, LLC

WAITING (Cason)
SM

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-29 (NRSV)

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴ "I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.' " (Selah)

¹⁹ Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

²⁰ I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

²¹ my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

²² The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴ My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶ He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

²⁷ I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

²⁸ Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm.

²⁹ I will establish his line forever, and his throne as long as the heavens endure.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain $\text{♪} = \text{♩}^3$

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man-ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT

7.6.7.6 with refrain



A Special "Thank You"

to those who came to decorate the church for this Advent and Christmas season: Janine Alexander, Lorraine Barber, Holli, Marin, Owen, & Luci Best, Nancy Carswell, Tony Cogdill, Breezy Dowling, Maralyn Foote, Megan, Addie, & Linden Greer, Emerson Hults, Ellie Lewis, Fred Lundy, Helen McIntosh, Dania Moreno, Jane Morris, Brenda, Kate, & Josie Pickens, Bob, Kathryn, Sophia, & Cora Richardson, Sandra Roberts, and Mary Lou Schubert.



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The choirs and congregation will celebrate the Advent season with a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Come sing and hear lessons and carols for Advent and Christmas showing the development of the loving purposes of God as seen through the windows and words of scripture. At 4:30 p.m. the Gainesville Brass Quintet and First Presbyterian Jubilate Ringers present seasonal music. Gather in Gordon Hall following evening Lessons and Carols to enjoy our festival Christmas trees along with hot chocolate and cookies. ****There will not be an 8:30 a.m. Service on Sunday, December 7.** Please join us for Nine Lessons and Carols at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.



Advent Organ Concert

You are invited to this year's Advent Organ Concert on Tuesday, December 16 at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary with Tom Ingui, organist. Tom has degrees from Yale University and Stetson University. His program includes music from Handel's Messiah and Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, as well as by composers J.S. Bach and Leroy Anderson.



Hope for the Holidays

Help Local Missions share the joy of the season with Family Promise and St. Francis House families! Look for the Hope for the Holidays Christmas tree in Gordon Hall. Please choose one or more ornaments, purchase and wrap the items, SECURELY ATTACH THE ORNAMENT/TAG, and return by Sunday, Dec. 14. These tags are wishlists to choose from. Please check the items you have purchased on the tag when you return your gift. You may also donate gift cards (Walmart, Target, gas, groceries) or write a check to the church to help purchase gifts. Please specify Hope for the Holidays on your donation. Thank you for bringing the hope of Christmas to families who are working to find the security of a stable home.

Pick-up a calendar page from the ushers or click the link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video, audio, and archives at 1stpc.org

Christmas Poinsettias

During the Christmas season our worship spaces will be decorated with poinsettias. Flowers are available to purchase in honor or in memory of a family member or loved one. The poinsettias are \$17 each and can be ordered by filling out the form below to place in the offering plate or mail to the church office by Sunday, December 14. The poinsettias will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve service.

Poinsettias Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____



Ministries & Staff

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Preschool Director

LISA HERSHKOWITZ - preschool@1stpc.org

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nursery Care during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. **Contact:** Victoria Bernard - toraleighb@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are released from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith on Sundays during the school year. **Contact:** Evelyn Lewis - citytr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry during the school year with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. **Contact:** Bev Vloedman dvloedman@aol.com

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12. (see **YA&FM** contact)

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & lunch and Tuesday Bible study at 7 p.m. Bring a friend! **Contact** the church office with questions at (352) 378-1527.

Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM) is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

Director of Music and Organist

MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Additional Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

Business Manager

TRUDY BONERBA - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

LAURA MONTGOMERY - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

JENNY CHAMBERLAIN - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

ANDREW NETARDUS - events@1stpc.org

Property Coordinator

JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



First Presbyterian
Church of Gainesville

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Matthew 6:30-56 - P. Foote - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Advent Workshop - Gordon Hall
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-for-God - Room 217
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall

Monday, December 1, 2025

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Circle 5 Presbyterian Women (PW) Bible Study
Questions? Contact Bev Vloedman - dvloedman@aol.com
- 5:30 p.m. Local Missions - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. College Trajectory Christmas Party - The Peddie's Home

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

- 1:30 p.m. Chocolate Lovers PW Bible Study - Parlor
Questions? Contact Betsy Berry - betsypwberry@gmail.com
- 3:45 p.m. LOGOS
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Time - Christmas Bells Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 4, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Brass Rehearsal
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Friday, December 5, 2025

Saturday, December 6, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. Nine Lessons & Carols Rehearsal
- 1:00 p.m. Cherub & Junior Choirs - Rehearsal & Christmas Party

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. No Service - Iona Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. Jubilate Ringers - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Matthew 7 - Tim Schubert - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: 9 Lessons - Rm 201
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Senior, Junior, & Cherub Choirs - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 10:50 a.m. Pre-service Music - Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Worship - Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room
- 3:15 p.m. Afternoon Music Rehearsals Start - Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Gainesville Brass Quintet & Jubilate Ringers - Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Sanctuary