

GATHERING

Holy One, You have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Symphonic Fanfare
Carol Ringers; Rebecca Ruescher, conductor

J. Brahms
arr. K. Roth

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Show me Your ways, Lord, teach me Your paths.

Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.

Remember, Lord, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

**Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;
according to Your love, remember me, for You, Lord, are good.**

* HYMN INSERT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dick Rauber (8:30 A.M.)

Elisa Neale-Tobener and Lizzy Tobener (11 A.M.)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for Your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us Your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in Your truth, and teach us Your paths, for You are the God of our salvation. And 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Joel 2:12-20 (NRSV)
OT pg. 847

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Oh, Be Careful, Little Eyes, What You See

Alleluia Choir; Alek Concepción, conductor

Oh, be careful, little eyes, what you see. There's a Father up above looking down in tender love, oh, be careful, little eyes, what you see. Oh, be careful, little ears, what you hear. There's a Father up above looking down in tender love, oh, be careful, little ears, what you hear.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Scott Stuart

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

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:20-38 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 85

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Watch!

Fred Lundy

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

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

C. Wiltse

Carol Ringers

*** DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 606

*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 83**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

*** BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE**

Lord Christ, the only Son of God

J.S. Bach

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Fred Lundy, Joe Mueller, Scott Stuart

ELDER ON DUTY: Joe Mueller

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

EMERITUS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Dr. Mark Coffey

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Anait Piloyan

CHANCEL CHOIR

CHAPEL USHER: Jeanne Thomas; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

A/V TEAM: Dink Henderson, John Rayl, and Youth Connection students: Owen Best, Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly, Kim de Fretes, Dania Moreno, Elijah West

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in memory of Margaret Vellis, grandmother of Alexis Vellis and mother of Nick Vellis and Katherine Vellis.

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/>

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. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. 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.

Prayer of Belief: *Lord Jesus Christ, I admit I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior. Amen.* (If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please let the pastor or elders on duty know.)

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Leon & Jayne Fox, Carol Hayes-Christiansen, and Chuck Olson. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

Leadership

Rev. Mark Hults
Pastor

Carol Israel
Clerk of Session

Dink Henderson
Treasurer

Session

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Fleetwood Fleming	Pam Bailey	Rachel Coffey
Carol Israel	Greg Dowling	Colin Conerly
Joe Mueller	Andy Greer	BarBee Geiger
Elisa Neale-Tobener	Margaret Lingg	Evelyn Lewis
Geoff Spiegel	Susannah Peddie	Coleen O'Brien
Alexis Vellis	Dick Rauber	Rose Anna Rutledge
Sarah Whitfield	Steve Walker	Eileen Stephens

Diaconate

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Holli Best	Mark Coffey	Buzz Boyd
Megan Greer	Mimi Gray	Mimi Carr
Fred Lewis	Dean Schoenfeld	Bob Tucker
	Jane Smith	Beth Wood

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

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Business Manager

Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

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Communications Specialist

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain

Latin, c. 12th century

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854

Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854

Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap-tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!
cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-20 (NRSV)

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

¹⁸Then the Lord became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people. ¹⁹In response to his people the Lord said: I am sending you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a mockery among the nations. ²⁰I will remove the northern army far from you, and drive it into a parched and desolate land, its front into the eastern sea, and its rear into the western sea; its stench and foul smell will rise up. Surely he has done great things!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 21:20-38 (NRSV)

²⁰"When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it; ²²for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfillment of all that is written. ²³Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; ²⁴they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." ³⁷Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. ³⁸And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - 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.

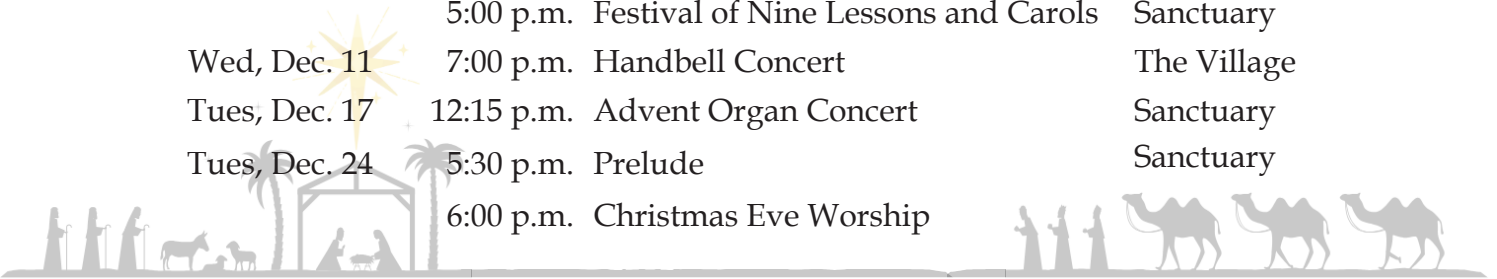
With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

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

STUTTGART
8.7.8.7
(alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)

THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sun, Dec. 1	9:30 a.m. Advent Workshop	Gordon Hall
Sun, Dec. 8	11:00 a.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
Wed, Dec. 11	7:00 p.m. Handbell Concert	The Village
Tues, Dec. 17	12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Concert	Sanctuary
Tues, Dec. 24	5:30 p.m. Prelude	Sanctuary
	6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship	



Montreat Christmas Table

Stop by the Montreat table and do some Christmas shopping. We have cookbooks, notecards, potholders, ornaments, and table runners. All proceeds help offset transportation and housing expenses for those going to the Montreat Worship and Music Conference in North Carolina next June.



Buy Your Own Church Yard Sign to spread the word about the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve Worship. Sign options are displayed in the Narthex today or visit www.1stpcmusic.org/signs. If you live in a neighborhood with an HOA, please check your neighborhood rules regarding signs. A \$25 one-time purchase pays for the printing costs. Choose from one of the two designs: "Organ" or "Choir" (the back is the same for each design).

Signs must be paid for before the order is placed. Place a check in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or use Pushpay. Please mark your design choice in the memo line. **If you purchased a sign last year, contact the church to receive your date change sticker so you can use the sign again this year.

A Time for Wonder

We are recommending this Advent devotional from Christianity Today for individuals and groups. The devotional contains five readings and an additional time for reflection for the four weeks and Christmas Day. The devotional looks at four themes of Advent through the eyes of worship - renewal, trials, revelation, and wonder. Contact Fred Lundy to receive a \$5 copy.



Christmas Trees Needed

The music ministry is requesting fake Christmas trees of a variety of sizes - small, medium, and large - to use this December for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Trees may be donated or lent to the church, but we ask that you transport them here. If you have questions, please contact Mitch Rorick.

* * * * *

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 \$15 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 15. The poinsettias will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve service.



Poinsettias Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____



A Special "Thank You"



to those who came to decorate the church for this Advent and Christmas season: Lorraine Barber, Holli, Owen, & Luci Best, Nancy Carswell, Frankie Cistola, Tony Cogdill, Greg, Margaret, Breezy, & Oliver Dowling, Maralyn Foote, Emerson Hults, Candy Kaswinkel, Fred, Lisa, Kate, & Parker Lundy, Dania Moreno, Jane Morris, Joe & Jenna Mueller, Brenda Pickens, John Rayl, Bob, Kathryn, Robert, Sophia, & Cora Richardson, Sandra Roberts, Mary Lou Schubert, and Maylean Sylvester.



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 8, 2024 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.

There will not be an 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 8. Please join us for Nine Lessons and Carols at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. Pre-service music begins at 10:50 a.m.



Advent Organ Concert

You are invited to this year's Advent Organ Concert on Tuesday, December 17 at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary with Joshua Mazur, organist at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.

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 Saturday, December 14. You may also donate gift cards or write a check to the church to help purchase gifts (write *Hope for the Holidays* in the memo). We appreciate everyone bringing the love of God to these families who are working with our local mission organizations to find the security of a stable home.



Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

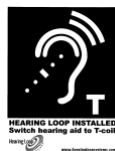
Weekly Figures

In-Person Attendance 11/24	166
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$38,129
Received Week of 11/24/24	\$30,752
Weekly Offering	\$7,795
Designated Offerings	\$9,805
Other Revenue	--
Preschool	\$13,152
FPC Fiscal Year: July 2024-June 2025	
YTD Budget Requirements	\$762,577
YTD Received	\$525,890
YTD Expenses	\$600,903


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 and audio as well as archives at 1stpc.org

CCLI License #2742913 & CCLI Streaming #CSPL091568

Ministries

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.

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: Jenna Mueller - jdmueller2009@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are released from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith. After the service, families meet in Gordon Hall. Contact: Evelyn Lewis - citytr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. Contact Bev Vloedman to RSVP for 6 p.m. dinner at dvloedman@aol.com.

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12.

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. Bring a friend!

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.

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.

Staff

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

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

REV. SCOTT STUART - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

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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, December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: John 12:1-19 - Tim Schubert - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Advent Workshop - Gordon Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Carol Ringers - Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Alleluia Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room
- 12:00 p.m. Montreat Christmas Table

Monday, December 2, 2024

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

- 2:15 p.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 - Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. College Trajectory Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

- 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 - Calling All Angels
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Bell Room 215

Thursday, December 5, 2024

- 7:00 a.m. YA&FM Men's Breakfast - Bagel Bakery
- 12:00 p.m. Office Volunteer Luncheon - The Hults' Home
- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers
- 7:00 p.m. Brass Rehearsal
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

Friday, December 6, 2024

Saturday, December 7, 2024

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

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. No Service - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: John 12:20-50 - Perry Foote - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: Advent - Rm 201
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers - Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Joyful Ringers - Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Senior, Junior, & Cherub Choirs - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Sanctuary

106 SW 3rd Street Gainesville, Florida 32601 · 352-378-1527 · 1stpc.org