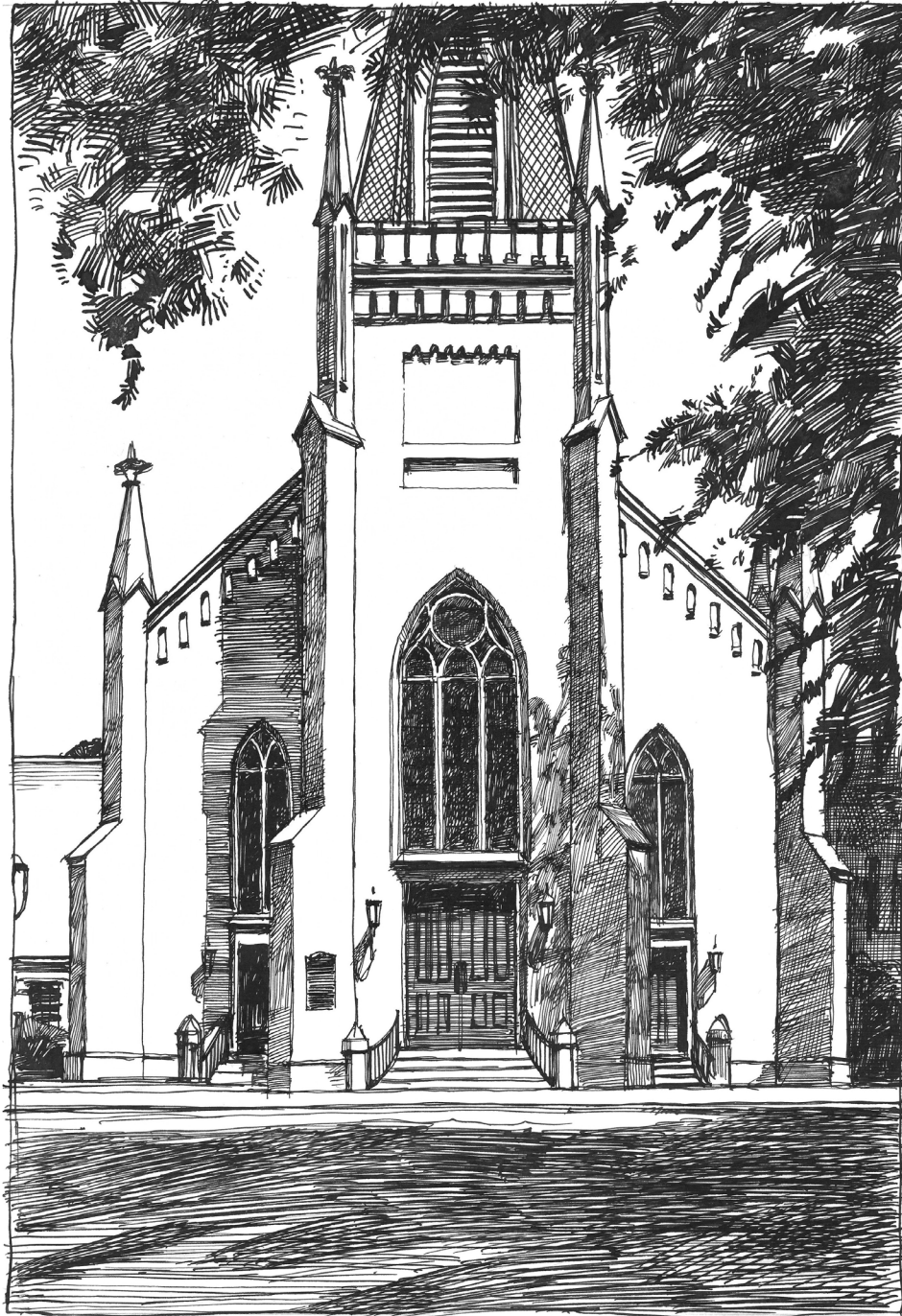


# First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 14, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*We invite you, whoever you are and whoever God is helping you to become, to join First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in our journey of faith. God is love, and that love is for you. You belong as a child of God, and we welcome you. Come experience how that belonging might change you and our world as we seek to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.*



First Presbyterian  
Church of Charlotte

VIRTUAL  
CONNECT  
CARD

Are you  
interested  
in joining  
our church?  
Contact  
Jane Ives,  
Membership  
Coordinator,  
jives@firstpres-  
charlotte.org.

**PREPARATION**

**Prelude** | “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” | James C. Smith | Adult Handbells

**Words of Welcome** | Lewis Galloway

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**ADORATION**

**+Lighting of the Candle of Joy** | The Kemp Family

The long night of sorrow is over;

**Joy comes with the morning.**

Weeping will turn into laughing;

**Feeble feet will leap and dance.**

Our souls cry out with a joyful shout;

**The Lord is surely coming!**

**+Hymn No. 106** | “Prepare the Way, O Zion” | BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**CONFESSION**

**Call to Confession** | Anna Dickson

**Prayer of Confession**

God of Joy, you call us to be your expectant people, watching and waiting for you to be at work among us. We confess that our faith has become rote ritual, and that we expect little beyond our own productivity. You call us to share in the joys and sorrows of our neighbors. We confess that too often we are too absorbed in our own concerns to share in the lives of others. You call us to participate in your radical reordering, where the proud are brought low and the lowly are exalted. We confess we have preferred things as they are. Forgive our complacency, O God, and open our hearts to the new thing that you are doing.

**Choral Response** | IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the good news.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**+Response to Pardon** | IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Baptism of Elliott Josephine Moor (Ellie)

The Elder  
assisting with  
the baptism  
today is Jane  
Ives.

**+Apostles' Creed**

**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; 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.**

*Children ages three through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. Older children are encouraged to stay and worship with their families.*

**FIRST  
CHURCH  
MOBILE  
CHECK IN**

**PROCLAMATION****Prayer for Illumination****Scripture** | Isaiah 40:1-5 | pew Bible p. 667**Anthem** | “Thou Shalt Know Him” | Mark Sirett

*Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums, nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears. Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown, but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.*

**Scripture** | Luke 1:39-56 | pew Bible p. 57**Sermon** | “The Power of Joy” | Lewis Galloway**+Hymn No. 100** | “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” | STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

**PRAYER  
REQUESTS**

**RESPONSE****Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** | Lucy Crain

**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.**

**Stewardship of Life** | Presentation of Tithes and Offering**Offertory Anthem** | “And the Glory of the Lord” from *Messiah* | G. F. Handel

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

**+Doxology** | OLD HUNDREDTH

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

**+Prayer of Dedication**

**GIVE  
ONLINE**



**TEXT  
TO GIVE**



## SENDING FORTH

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+**Hymn No. 105** | “People, Look East” | BESANÇON

+**Benediction**

+**Benediction Response** | DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! Amen.*

**Postlude** | “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” | arr. Keith Chapman

## IN LOVING MEMORY

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The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Barrett McGuire upon the death of his father, Jeff McGuire, on November 11, 2025.

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

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Ellie Moor is the daughter of Alexa and Bruce Moor.

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of William Steven Coggins, son of Katina and Bo Coggins, on November 18, 2025.

*If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at dianenmaye@hotmail.com.*

Today's Worship Leaders:

**The Reverend Dr. Lewis Galloway**, Transitional Pastor

**The Reverend Anna R. Dickson**, Executive Pastor and Associate for Congregational Care

**The Reverend Lucy M. Crain**, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

**William P. Young, III**, Director of Music Ministries

**Kaitlyn Davros**, Assistant Director of Music Ministries



# Welcome!

We're so glad you decided to join us for worship today! Whether you are a member, a frequent visitor, or it's your first time here, keep reading for details about today's worship.

**Are you new here?** Please fill out a Connect Card, which can be found in the seatback of the pew in front of you, or scan the "Virtual Connect Card" QR code in the front of your bulletin.



## Children's Offerings:

**9 a.m. Service:** A nursery is available for children ages birth through first grade in room P311.

**11 a.m. Service:** A nursery is available for children ages birth through 2 in room P311. During the service, children will be invited to participate in the Time for Children, after which ages 3 through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn.



Our church is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which seeks equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church.



**Do you need support?** We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Stephen Ministers are trained to engage in confidential, structured, and caring relationships with people who are going through a difficult period. If you are in a tough season and need extra support, email Mary Bowman ([mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org](mailto:mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org)).

If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

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## CONNECT WITH US!



@firstprescharlotte

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@firstprescharlotte

# Announcements

## Alternative Gift Market

Honor a loved one this Christmas by sharing a gift that makes a difference. You can purchase a lovely Christmas card, designed by our own talented Lucy Caldwell, and designate funds to go to the wonderful organization of your choice. Scan the QR code to purchase a card online or in person following worship on Sundays.

## Youth Christmas Party

*Tonight, 6 p.m., Wood Fellowship Hall*

It's Christmas Party time! Bring a White Elephant gift (\$20 limit) and candy for candy salad, and prepare for Nativity scenes like you've never tasted before.

## Room In The Inn Set Up

*Sundays and Tuesdays, now - March 31*

Can you help support our Room in the Inn ministry with just 15 minutes of your time? If evenings aren't for you, consider staying a few minutes after worship on Sunday and making a few beds. Scan the QR code to sign up.

## Winterfest at Westerly Hills Academy (WHA)

*December 18, 4 p.m., Westerly Hills Academy*

Join us at the last WHA community event of the year. Scan the QR code to help with crafts, cookie decorating, Santa photos, or games!

## Service of Lessons and Carols

*December 21, 11 a.m., Sanctuary*

Led by the Sanctuary Choir and orchestra, this classic Advent service tells the Christmas story through Scripture readings interwoven with carols. This service will also be live streamed and available on WAXN-Channel 64.

## Christmas Eve Services

- 11 a.m. Children and Family Service  
(Sanctuary and live stream)
- 8 p.m. Candlelight Service  
(Sanctuary and live stream)
- 11 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service  
(Sanctuary, live stream, and broadcast on WAXN-Channel 64 and WSOC-Channel 9)

**There are no services on Christmas Day.**

## Save the Date: Women's Spring Retreat

*May 1-3, 2026, Montreat Conference Center*

Registration opens on January 8 for our 2026 women's retreat. All women are invited to a weekend of rest, connection, and renewal in the mountains. Scan the QR code to learn more or pick up a brochure in the Welcome Center.



SCAN HERE TO ACCESS ALL LINKS  
FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS  
[FPC.TINY.US/LINKS](https://fpc.tiny.us/links)

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