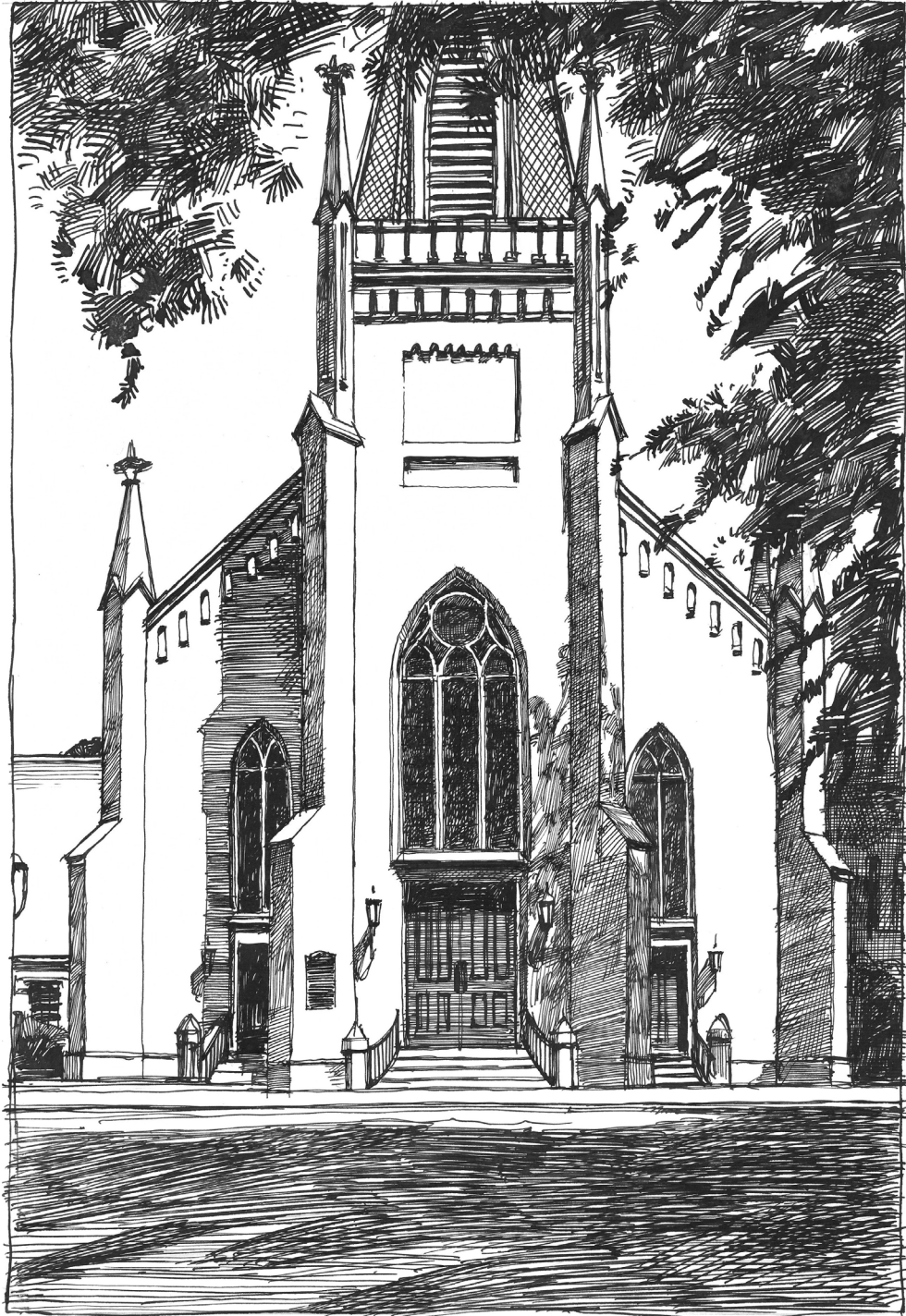


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 21, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD

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

Prelude | “In Sweet Rejoicing” | Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome | Lewis Galloway

Chiming of the Trinity

Lighting of the Candle of Love | Dianne and Jesse Hite

The Lord our God will be our shepherd;

And every lamb gathered safely in.

The Lord our God will also be our lamb;

For the Glory of the Lord is revealed in love.

Come to us, abide with us,

Our Lord, Emmanuel.

Processional Carol | “Once in Royal David’s City” | IRBY | arr. David Willcocks

Stanza 1 | Emmie Cronin, soloist

*Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

+Stanza 2 | Choir | **Please stand as the choir passes your pew.**

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

+Stanza 3-6 | All

And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey, love, and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay; Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew, and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high; when like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Anthem | “Gloria” | Randol Alan Bass

LATIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili Unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis, qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

ENGLISH: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you. We bless you. We adore you. We glorify you. We give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty father. Lord, only-begotten son, Lamb of God, son of the father, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us; receive our prayer. You who sit at the right hand of the father, have mercy upon us.

Lesson | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 | Ros Mallory

The people who walked in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

Carol | “O Little Town of Bethlehem” | arr. Dale Warland

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend on us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, or Lord Emmanuel.

Lesson | Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 | Julia McLean

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

+Congregational Carol 378 | “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom” | MERLE'S TUNE

(Children may leave for First Church through the rear doors and will return during the closing hymn.)

Lesson | Luke 1:26-35, 38 | Rachel Austin

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

Carol | “Fum, Fum, Fum!” | arr. Kirke Mechem

On December twenty-fifth, sing fum, fum, fum! He is born of God's pure love, the Son of God; he is born of virgin Mary in this night so cold and dreary. Birds who live in every forest, fum, fum, fum! You must leave your fledglings on the bough, you must leave your fledglings now; for to make a downy nest, so the newborn babe may rest. All the brilliant stars in heaven. Looking down see Jesus crying, see him crying; send away the darkness lightly, shine your light upon us brightly, fum, fum, fum.

Lesson | Luke 2:1-7 | Margaret Dickson

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem where Mary gives birth to her child.

Carol | “Candlelight Carol” | John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing: the Christ child is born. Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him; seraphim round him their vigil will keep. Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger: Christ our redeemer asleep in the hay. God-head incarnate and hope of salvation: a child with his mother that first Christmas day.

Lesson | Luke 2:8-16 | Kim Sebo

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

+Congregational Carol 113 | “Angels We Have Heard on High” | GLORIA/descant: Bruce Neswick**Lesson** | Matthew 2:1-11 | Ann Ward

Magi from the east come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.

Carol | “Hodie Christus Natus Est” | Andrew Carter

Hodie Christus natus est; born is the king forever blessed. Welcome we now our heavenly guest. Sing alleluya! Loud we give praise this day of days. Long may we sing our God and King. Light of light; Lord of lords. Alleluya!

PRAYER
REQUESTSGIVE
ONLINETEXT
TO GIVE

VENMO

@FirstPres
ofCharlotte**Lesson** | John 1:1-14 | Brent Torstrick*The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.***+Congregational Carol 133** | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” | ADESTE FIDELES | arr. Willcocks**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer** | Anna Dickson

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** | “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High” | arr. Mack Wilberg

Ding! dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing! Ding! dong! verily the sky is riv’n with angels singing! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! E’en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and “I-o-i-o-i-o!” by priest and people sungen! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime ye ringers! May you beautifully rime your eve-time song, ye singers! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

+Congregational Carol 119 | “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” | MENDELSSOHN | arr. Willcocks**+Benediction****Postlude** | “God Rest You Merry” | Alfred V. Fedak**IN LOVING MEMORY**

The Rev. Dr. David Scott Lindsay (former Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church)
December 3, 1947 - December 15, 2025

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Pressley Alexandra Walsh, daughter of Julia and Donovan Walsh, on December 11, 2025.

Today’s Worship Leaders:

The Reverend Dr. Lewis Galloway, *Transitional Pastor*

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

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

Kaitlyn Davros, *Assistant Director of Music Ministries*

The Sanctuary Choir

Will Young, director

Soprano

Lucy Baum
Sara Blumenthal
Scott Bryan
Nan Cherry
Melissa Childers
Julie Cramerson
Katie Daugherty
Caroline Ford
Loretta Giles
Beryl Ierardi
Elizabeth Ignasher
Anne Lafferty
Fran Landess*
Mary Ann Langston*
Christina Pier
Lillian Quackenbush
Susan Shimp
Jylian Taylor
Martha Thorpe

Alto

Carla Faust Bare*
Suzie Black
Pam Dennis*
Barb Frith
Tonda Gridley
Kelly Harder
Carolyn Jones
Janet Lyman
Karen MacKenzie
Meg McReynolds
Caryn Overbey
Gwen Scott
Blair Shiff
Kacie Coughlin Thomson
Libby Tilson*
Melanie Twyne
Jane Whitley

Tenor

David Bolls
Hank Griffin
Skipper Johnson
Eric Langer
Kent Main
Warren Overbey
Dave Quackenbush
Alan Turner
David W. Wells*

Bass

Matt Baum
Harlan Carroll
David Dennis
Bill Fleet
Jeff Hollowell
Richard Lafferty
Bill Lynch
Billy Mancini
Jake Mellichamp*
Andy Parse
Jim Twyne
Marty Walker*
David Williamson

**Not singing with us today*

Instrumentalists

Violin 1

Jane Brendle
Brian Hall
David Russell

Violin 2

Amanda Gentile
Kathy Jarrell
Alison Lawson

Viola

Matthew Darsey
Shawn Snider

Cello

Matt Lavin
John Mooney

Double Bass

Kurt Reicken

Oboe

Teil Taleisin

Flute

Amy Orsinger-Whitehead

Clarinet

Sam Sparrow

Trumpet

Anne Lineberger
Stacey Mills

French Horn

Judy Thompson

Trombone

Riley Bahin

Bass Trombone

Jason Holden

Percussion

Trevor Cook
Evan Schmit

Harp

Amber Joy Koeppen

Organ and Piano

Kaitlyn Davros

The 2025 Christmas Poinsettias

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory or honor of

(Honoraria in italics)

Belle Ward and Sid Abernethy
Will Appleby
Joan and Bev Barksdale
Mary and Ernest Barry
Kitty and Gene Bartholomew
Lucy and Matt Baum
Lois and T.R. Black
Suzie and Reggie Black
Thurston and Helen Bowman
Kent Brock
Ruby Gurganus Brooks
Kay Baldrige Campbell Brothers
Gail Weaver Bunn
Jane and Lawrence Burton
Mark Burud
Eula and Dick Buzard
Barb and Rudy Carlson
Mary and Norm Carlson
Kenneth Carroll
Russell Carroll
Susan Carroll
Mrs. Frances Carter
Marilyn Chester
Gloria Clark
Julian J. Clark
Peyton Elizabeth Clark
Jean and Gene Cochrane
Mary T. and Eugene W. Cochrane
Steve Craver
Rev. Anna Dickson
Terry and Jerry Dunbar
Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Emberson
Peter Kirkwood Flora
Mr. and Mrs. Fontaine
Tanya Gaspar
Jean Gilcrest
Jimmy Glover

Mabel and James Glover
Pat Glover
Mrs. Eugene Berrien Graham, Jr.
Eugene Berrien Graham, III
Kaye Greene
Roderick A. Groetzinger
Ruby Gurganus
William and Knox Gustafson
Dr. and Mrs. Edward H. (LaMelle)
Hagerty
Evelyn and Irvin Hankins
Cornelia and Dick Harbison
Taylor Harbison
Will Harbison
Joey and Bill Henderson
Tet and Bill Henley
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse G. Hite, Sr.
Barbara and Pressley Hoover
Juanita and Jack Hotchkiss
Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Douglas Hoy, Sr.
Anna Hull
Dot and Tom Hunter
Eugenia Hunter
Mr. & Mrs. George Patrick Hunter, Sr.
Gordon Hunter
Barbara Recker Johnson
Eloise Fountain Kemp
Margaret Aurelia Kemp
Evelyn and Royal Kinner
Dottie and H.D. Knight
June and Mike Leonard
Walter Lockhart
Arlene Main
Margaret C. and Paul H. Mann
Jackie and Ted Manning
Jim Martin
Diane Maye

Barbara and Archie McCall
Elise and Bill McClung
Dee Dee and Peter McKay
Dr. and Mrs. Forrest Mingo
Leta Morris
John M. Murchison
Kirk Raymond Orrell
Alice and Hoyt Palmer
Doris Daughtry Parker
Linda and Bill Peterson
Andrew D. Plepler
Nancy Otis Porter
Robert Potts
Amelie Pressly
Thomas Baker Price
PW Circle 13
Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Ridenhour
Richard L. Rogers, MD
Roscoe A. Rogers
Margaret and David Sauerwald
Mr. and Mrs. Fontaine Herndon Scott
Ann Carson Shea
Bradley W. Smith
Kenneth G. Smith
Jim Strain
Connie and Charlie Thompson
Nancy and Donald Thorpe
Rev. Melvin Torstrick
Eugenia and Ben Trammell
Ava Turner
Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Wallace
Lt. Col. and Mrs. Richard C. (Ruth) Ward
Cathy Wiggins
Ginger Williams
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Wingfield
Leta Morris Withers

The 2025 Christmas Wreaths

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory or honor of

(Honoraria in italics)

Pat and Randy Ayer
by their children and their families

Carolyn and Conrad Bare and
Anna and Carl Faust
by Dave and Carla Faust Bare

Paul Brackbill
by Carrie Tucker

Janet and Bob Bryan
by Flo and Kedar Bryan and
Susan and John Daniel

Mark Burud
by his family

Carol Byram
by Birshal Elizabeth Poole (Beth)

Henry Gray Caldwell
by the Caldwell and Harnett families

JoAnn Caldwell
by Katie, Mark, Carson and Harris
Caldwell

Boyd Campbell
by Frances Campbell

Caroline and John Carriker
by Blair, Alexander and Marion Donald

Robert A. Eubank
by his family

Henry Clifton Fleming
by Ruth Shaw

Davis and Timothy Flohr
by Judith and Steve Flohr

Peter Kirkwood Flora
by the Flora family

*The Rev. and Mrs. Lewis Galloway
by Presbyterian Women*

Janice and Arnold Gill
by Ruth Ellen and Thold Gill

Dorothy and William Halligan
by Katie and Mike James

Sally McKenzie High
by Sarah and Allen Shifflet

Shirley and Luther Hodges
by Ruth Ellen and Thold Gill

Nancy and Robert James
by Katie and Mike James

Nancy Johnson and
Blanche and George Bondranko
by Georgia and Ken Johnson

Thomas Yates Keesler
by Susan and David Keesler

*Betty King and Gerry King and
Suzanne and Jim Harrison
by the King family*

Betty and John Kinnett
by Claire and John Tate

Rev. Richard H. Lindsey, Jr.
by Nancy Lindsey

Jack Lomax
by Jane and John Lomax

Martha and Roswell Mallory
by the Justis and Mallory families

Kate and Kevin Mangum
by Carrington, Scott, Carter and Davis
Angel

Larry and Dowd Maye
by Diane Maye

The Parents of
Norene and Bill Hart

The Parents of Gibbs and Bryan Ives
and
The Parents of Jane and Frasier Ives

Birshal and Bob Poole
by Birshal Elizabeth Poole (Beth)

Robert Potts
by the Harder family

Margaret and Lowry Pressly
by Sara Pressly

Bertha Moore Rankin
by Suzanne and Bill Schweppe

Charles Griffith Ross
by Suzanne and Bill Schweppe

Martha Rankin Schweppe
by Suzanne and Bill Schweppe

Colin Stuart Shaw
by Ruth Shaw

David Sidbury
by Debbie Sidbury

*The Wonderful Staff of First
Presbyterian Church
by Presbyterian Women*

Dolly and Jack Tate
by Claire and John Tate

Emma Leigh Page Thomas
by Ruth Ellen and Thold Gill

Kathy Wagstaff
by Olivia Hurd

Marvis and Fritz Weigandt
by Don Weigandt

Welcome!

We're so glad you decided to join us for worship today! If you're 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.



Today's Children's Offerings

A nursery is available for children ages birth through 2 in P311. **First Church Today** - Children, age 3 - first grade, will begin in worship with their families and

then, at an appointed time in the service, may follow leaders out the rear of the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall for First Church. They will return through the rear of the sanctuary during the closing hymn.

There will be no First Church next Sunday, December 28. First Church will resume on January 4, 2026.



COVENANT NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS

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).

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.



Announcements

Alternative Gift Market

Need a last-minute Christmas gift? Honor a loved one with a gift that supports one of our local or global partners! When you make a gift to the Alternative Gift Market, you'll receive a beautiful Christmas card to send to your loved one, letting them know that a gift has been made in their honor. You can purchase after church today in the Welcome Center or scan the QR code to purchase online.

Pastor Nominating Committee Recommendations

The Transition Team is beginning the search for First Presbyterian's next senior pastor by forming a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to identify, recruit, and recommend a candidate to the congregation. Nominees should be actively involved at FPC, wise and discerning, and able to meet regularly for the next 12-18 months (with possible travel). The deadline to make a recommendation is January 18. Scan the QR code to submit a recommendation online.

Room In The Inn Set Up

Sundays and Tuesdays through 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.

Christmas Eve Offering for Roof Above

Our congregation supports the emergency winter overflow program "Room in the Inn" through our outreach partner Roof Above. Through this program, unsheltered individuals and families stay overnight at our church. They receive a hearty dinner, a warm bed, and breakfast and lunch for the next day. On Christmas Eve, 100% of the offering will go to support Roof Above's programs, including Room in the Inn, that provide emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing for our city's most vulnerable.

Christmas Eve Services

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

There will be 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)