



LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith
joined together through Christ, offering meaning and
hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.**

**10 Simmonsville Rd
Bluffton, SC 29910**

**Sunday, November 19, 2023
8:30am and 10:30am**

LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**10 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, SC 29910**

Church Office: (843) 815-6570

Fellowship Hall (843) 815-6575

E-Mail: office@lowcountrypres.org

Web Page: www.lowcountrypres.org

*Office hours: Mon-Thu: 8:30am-4:00pm;
Friday: 8:30am-Noon*

STAFF

Rev. Chris Herrin, Pastor: revherrin@lowcountrypres.org

Rev. David Johnson, Associate Pastor: revjohnson@lowcountrypres.org

Office/Christy James: office@lowcountrypres.org

Dr. Robin Lind, Music Director: rlind@lowcountrypres.org

Dr. Karen Ball, Organist—kball@olivet.edu

The Session

Class of 2023

Karen Couser
(843-422-2473)
Diane Mikkelson
(843-368-6865)
Larry Tremitiere
(843-208-2107)
Janit Maguire
(845-527-6409)

Class of 2024

Sandy Benninger
(843-705-5233)
Jerri Hanna
(843-645-0610)
Carolyn Marshall
(805-522-8346)
Anne Redlus
(843-705-6373)

Class of 2025

Jan Alpert
(843- 837-2177)
Kevin MacCarthy
(609-462-3903)
Pam Davis-Webb
(607-215-2289)
Dale Wilkes
(207-299-6693)

Unison Prayer of Confession

O Lord, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. You call us stewards, but we squander your gifts. You give us tasks to perform, yet we do as we please. You send us to minister on behalf of those suffering; we are slow to respond until our own needs are met. Forgive us and hear now our silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of Pardon

Response Hymn #62

Love the Lord your God with all your heart. Love the Lord your God with all your soul. Love the Lord your God with all your mind. Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

***Affirmation of Faith**

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.

***Gloria Patri # 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.

Prayers of the People the Lord's Prayer

Rev. David Johnson

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***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.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Johnson

***Hymn #703**

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

**Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.**

**O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown! All
coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.**

**O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away where' er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.**

Anthem (10:30)

In the Season of Our Plenty

arr. Mark Patterson

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (pg. 193)

Matthew 25:14-30 (pg. 27)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“A Profit for God”

Rev. Chris Herrin

***Hymn #707**

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

(10:30) (unison on 1st and 4th verses - men only on 2nd - women only on 3rd)

**Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.**

**Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.**

**Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.**

**Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.**

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Rejoice, The Lord Is King

arr. Jason Payne

* Those who are able, please stand.

As we enter this time of worship, please be sure your cell phone is on silent or off. Thank you!

Welcome to worship. All visitors are welcome to LPC, where we seek to love and serve Christ with all that we are and in all that we do. Let us know of your visit using the visitor card in the pew rack and dropping it in the offering baskets. Care for infants through 5 years old during worship is provided in the nursery. Worship bags with activities for elementary age are in the Narthex.

Stewardship 2024 Update: We have received 120 pledges for a total of \$467,422 towards a budget of \$580,000. This represents an increase in the number of pledging units and in pledged amount and we thank you! If you have not yet pledged, additional cards can be found in the Narthex and dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. All who participate in the life of the church are welcome to pledge.

Our annual Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, December 3rd following 10:30am worship. We need YOU to help decorate our beautiful sanctuary for the Christmas season and will reward your efforts with a light pizza lunch afterward! ***Please plan to meet in the rear right pews immediately following the service for instructions.*

**Christian sympathy is extended to Kathy Crist
on the death of her husband, Mark.**

**The flowers today are to the glory of God given by
John & Sonia Abernethy in appreciation of those involved
with the Thomas Hall renovations.**

The Christmas Potluck Dinner will be Wednesday, December 6th in Thomas Hall beginning at 6 pm. Membership Team will provide a main course (spiral ham and turkey breast). We are asking participants to bring a salad, side dish or dessert. Sign-up by December 1 in the Narthex, online, or call the church office.

Memorial Poinsettia order forms are on the counter in the Narthex. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please fill out the form and place it in the offering basket or the church office. Plants are \$15 each. Make checks payable to LPC and note poinsettias. Place your order by December 5th.

Adult Sunday School: Join us from 9:30 am – 10:10 am in the Parlor for a discussion of Psalm 135 as we continue our *Seasons of Psalms* study. No advance reading is required.

Advent Reversals: In less than the time it takes to decorate your home for Christmas, you can prepare your hearts and spirits for the coming of the Christ child this season. Rev. Johnson is offering three one-hour sessions on **Mondays, December 4, 11, and 18.** These stand-alone sessions will be offered at both 2pm and 6pm. We will watch for reversals from darkness to light, fear to courage, questions to commitments that we find in the Christmas characters and in our own lives. Sign up in the Narthex or online.

The Angel Tree is in the narthex a week early this year! There are 52 red and white angels with names of books for the children that meet in our Thomas Hall M-Th with the Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC) after school program. There are also 4 angels with names of educational games for NOC to use throughout the year. **Please chose an angel, purchase the book or game requested, Christmas wrap the book or game, put the angel on the outside and return to the Angel Tree table no later than Sunday, December 3.** (All books are between \$4.00 and \$13.00)

The 17 green angels are for seniors in our community. **Please put the gift card or cash or check in the angel tree envelope on the table with your angel inside or attached and return no later than Sunday, December 3.**

The Change Can Make a Change for November/December this year will be used to purchase \$25 Walmart gift cards for Agape Center families to use for each of their children at Christmas. In some cases, the families will need to purchase food but others may choose to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. Each parent knows best their family's needs.

The next selection for The Bound Together Book Club is "*Reading for the Love of God , How to Read as a Spiritual Practice*" by Jessica Hooten Wilson. "This engaging guide outlines several ways Christian thinkers—including Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Frederick Douglass, and Dorothy L. Sayers—approached the act of reading. It also includes suggested reading lists, guided practices to approaching texts, and tips for meditating on specific texts or Bible passages." Chris Herrin and Carol Bogle will lead the discussion on Thursday, December 7 at 3:15 in the parlor. Sign-up online, lowcountrypres.org/new-events or the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Blue Christmas - A Service of Healing and Hope - Dec. 4 at 6:30pm
At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 351 Buckwalter Parkway, Bluffton.

Our annual Kirkin' O the Tartans Service will be held February 11, 2024. It will include a procession/recession of Tartan (Clan) banners. If you are interested in ordering a banner to participate or any other clan accessories (such as ties, scarves and shawls), contact: Fran Parker at 843-757-8181 or frannieparker38@gmail.com. Orders must be placed by November 30th for delivery in time for the service. Look for more information closer to the date of the Kirkin' on our eblasts and website!

Nursery: Looking for two volunteers to handle the nursery at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service Sunday, Dec 24. Please contact Elder Dale Wilkes at (207) 299-6693 or dalewilkes207@gmail.com if you are available.

Last Chance Before the Holidays—Christmas CDs to benefit Earth Care
Dr. Gerald Anderson, former LPC member now on staff at 1st Pres. HHI, generously donated dozens of his "A Classical Christmas" CDs to benefit Earth Care in 2017. The remaining CDs are available for your donation in the Narthex following services or as long as they last! Dr. Anderson and our current pianist/organist Dr. Karen Ball were both professors at Olivet Nazarene University. Welcome the Christmas season with a wonderful medley of favorites guaranteed to please!

The photo directory won't be complete without YOU! Early daytime hours have been added to the schedule for you to have your photo taken for the church picture directory. Schedule NOW to secure your preferred time.

Available times are:

Friday December 1 6:12 - 8:36 pm
Saturday December 2 12:36 - 4:00 pm
Monday December 4 4:48 - 8:36 pm
Tuesday December 5 12:12- 6:36 pm
Wednesday December 6 12:36 7:00 pm (Christmas dinner)

Options to schedule a photo are: Call the church office at 843-815-6570, register Sunday morning after each worship service, or register online at: www.ucdir.com, click on box in upper right that reads "photographing appointment scheduling". The login is: sc281 The password is : photos

You are only able to schedule online Monday-Friday. It is closed weekends for the committee to prepare schedule sheets for Sunday registration.

Volunteers: Looking for a Way to Serve LPC's Earth Care Program?

Here are the tasks we need volunteers for this December-May! Can you help, please?

***Maintain the Earth Care bulletin board in the Narthex. Post interesting articles to share as needed.

***Pick up and recycle boxes, paper, cans, etc. from the LPC office every 2 weeks or as needed. Thomas Hall recycling bins emptied as needed.

***Earth Day is Monday, April 22, 2024. Plan publicity and an activity or two to celebrate this day!

Sign up on the Earth Care Bulletin Board through November in the Narthex! We thank you in advance! Questions? Gretchen & Jon Nickel gretchjon@yahoo.com

Hospitality Volunteers are needed for after 10:30am, December 3. New volunteers are welcome. For more information contact Carol Hissom at 843-705-1984 or text 724- 255-2949.

Men of Purpose will begin a new study on Saturday, December 2 of Eugene Peterson's Book "Leap Over a Wall" about the life of David. This would be a great time to join. Meetings are Saturdays at 9:00am in the Parlor. For questions contact Bill Walker: billwalker42@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Food Drive Results - The Mission Committee thanks you all very much for your generosity in this past weekend's Thanksgiving Food Drive for Agape Family Life Center! Here's what Dr. Young, Agape COO had to say:

Thank you Lowcountry Presbyterian Church for your continued support. The food drives, and monetary support helps Agape to provide healthier food options and meet the basic needs for so many families. You have been a tremendous blessing, THANK YOU!!!

Dr. Ponchitta Young, Chief Operations Officer Agape Family Life Center

In total, you donated over 1100 food items! That included 65 bags of fresh fruits and vegetables, 451 cans of much needed vegetables and 109 bags and jars of stuffing and gravy!