



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**

**1st Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2024
10:30am**

LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**10 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, SC 29910**

Church Office: (843) 815-6570

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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 2024

Sandy Benninger
(843-705-5233)
Jerri Hanna
(843-645-0610)
Fran Parker
(843-757-8181)
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)

Class of 2026

Elaine Branda
(843-816-2240)
Chad Copenhaver
(303-589-3816)

Celebration of Worship
1st Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2024 - 10:30am

Silent Meditation

Sovereign God, as we worship today, we pray that the reign of Christ may live in our hearts and come to our world. Amen

Prelude

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Karen Ball

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Chris Herrin

Call to Worship (Jeremiah 33)

Lori Higgins

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

People: **Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.**

***Hymn #93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

***Lighting the Advent Candle and Invocation**

Annie & Tim Ehrhart

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We often forget about you in our daily lives and then fail to live by your kingdom values, hurting ourselves and others. We sin. Other days we live in fear, as though you've forgotten about us, as if we can exhaust your grace. Forgive us Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love as we silently confess our sin to you.

Assurance of Pardon

Response:

Hymn #121 (v. 4)

*“O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.”*

***Affirmation of Faith**

Book of Order F-1.03

The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation. The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down. The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord. 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

Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Come, Be Fed* Ruth E. Schram/Celsie Stagers

***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**

***Hymn #104** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (vv. 1 & 2)

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16 (pg. 694)
Luke 21:25-28, 33 (pg. 80)
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Meditation **"Hope for the Present"** Rev. Chris Herrin

Hymn of Preparation #104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (v. 3)

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

****Distribution**

Prayer after Communion and Singing of 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.

***Hymn #82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *St. John Damascene* by Noel Rawsthorne

* Those who are able, please stand.

**** Communion by Intinction:** As you come forward, use the side aisles as directed by an usher. You will take a piece of bread and then dip it in one of the chalices; the first chalice is wine, the second, grape juice. If you prefer to use the packaged communion set, you may take one when you come forward. Please return to your seat using the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, please tell an usher and a set will be brought to you. Gluten free bread is in the center of each tray and also available are gluten free packaged sets.

Welcome to worship. All visitors are welcome to LPC where we seek to love and serve Christ. Let us know of your visit using the visitor card in the pew rack and dropping it in the offering basket. Care for infants thru 6 years old during worship is provided in the nursery. Activity bags for elementary age children are available in the Narthex.

Hanging of the Greens today following worship. Volunteers are welcomed and rewarded with pizza. Gather in back pews (pulpit side) for instructions.

Stewardship Update: Thanks to your generous response, to date we have received 137 pledges totaling \$541,932 as compared to at this time last year, 124 pledges for \$480,300. We are well on our way to the proposed 2025 budget of \$650,000 and the Stewardship Team thanks you! Pledges enable your elders to plan for their programs and initiatives as we seek to grow disciples and reach out to share God's love. If you haven't yet pledged, extra cards are available in the Narthex and can be placed in the offering plate, or dropped off or mailed to the office. All who participate in any way are invited to pledge to support LPC's ministry.

The Advent Cantata will be presented next Sunday, December 8th. The Cantata will be a combination of 4 choral pieces interspersed with readings. The Jubilate Ringers will be providing beautiful music for the Prelude and Offertory.

Rev. Johnson is on vacation returning to the office tomorrow.

Adult Sunday School is held in the parlor at 9:15am. The class will not meet next Sunday, December 8th. There is no Adult Sunday School December 22 and 29. It will resume January 5.

Children's Sunday School will be December 8th and 15th after the Children's Moment. In January we will return to the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

2nd Saturday for Men: *While you wait.* Advent is a season of waiting. Waiting for the Messiah to come, waiting for light to break into the darkness, waiting for Jesus' birth. Much of our lives are spent waiting too. Waiting on hold, waiting for an appointment, waiting for life to get better. **On December 14th,** 2nd Saturday for Men will meet in the parlor to talk about active and productive waiting. I can barely wait.

Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, December 10th at 11:00am in the parlor. The group, open to all LPC women and friends, meets every 2nd Tuesday. "Holy Envy" by Barbara Brown Taylor is the current focus book, with this month's discussion focused on Chapter 4, pages 61-80. Consider joining us! Contact Pam Davis-Webb (psdw44@gmail.com) or Venus Holland (reidallenholland@gmail.com) for more information.

**The flowers today are to the Glory of God, given by
Mike & Kelly Manning in loving memory of Leo Vannoni**

Change Can Make a Change for November and December will be for the Angel Tree. Money collected will be used to purchase \$25 Walmart gift cards for 150 Agape families and \$20 Walmart gift cards for 60 NOC children.

The Angel Tree is in the Narthex with Angels showing the names of books for 60 children in the NOC program (Neighborhood Outreach Connection) who meet during the week in our Thomas Hall. In addition, we will be collecting \$25 Walmart gift cards for the families of 150+ children that are served by Agape Family Life Center. Since NOC is gifting the children their books on December 14 and Agape their gift cards on December 16, it is very important that we receive gifts by December 8. Please pray for these families and children. Thank you for your amazing generosity over the many years of our Angel Tree. Instructions are on the table in the Narthex.

Mitten Project - As in past years, we are joining members of Temple Oseh Shalom (who worship in our sanctuary) to help with the Mitten Project. Please donate new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, earmuffs and/or headbands. Donations may be dropped off in the Narthex on December 8th and 15th. Thank you from the Missions Ministry Team!

Make an impact around the world by making donations in honor of family and friends through the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue. These are truly gifts that keep on giving! Catalogs with a selection of items to benefit families in other countries will be handed out after the service December 8th. There will be a table in the Narthex to accept your donations or to answer questions. Orders and checks can also be placed in the offering basket or turned into the office. Checks should be made out to LPC. The gift areas are Kits and tools, People, Water, Livestock and Agriculture. Last year our church members donated \$2,762.00 to this program. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world. Any questions, contact Anne Redlus, Mission Elder at anneredlus@gmail.com or call 843-705-6373.

Advent Devotional Guides with daily readings for Advent are available in the Narthex, compliments of the Faith Formation Ministry Team.

Advent Organ and Poetry - On Thursdays during Advent, local Presbyterian churches will share poetry and organ music around Advent themes. On December 5th, our own Dr. Karen Ball and Rev. Johnson will play and read for the event. Come and hear them in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head on Thursday, December 5, at 11am.

All are welcome to the Christmas Potluck and Carol Sing on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:00pm in Thomas Hall. The Membership Ministry Team will provide a main course of ham and turkey breast and asks those who come to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. Following dinner, Robin and Karen and members of the choir will lead us in singing favorite Christmas Carols and songs. **Sign-up in the Narthex or online by noon on Monday.**

This December 15th, at 3:30pm in the sanctuary, we are offering a “Blue Christmas Service” that celebrates the birth of the Christ child in a way that honors the grief and sadness that many of us carry inside, and offers hope for a future marked by healing and even joy. It recognizes that Jesus was born into a world of darkness and pain, in order to heal and restore us. This is an opportunity for us, and for us to invite friends and neighbors to celebrate Christmas when we don't feel very festive or jolly. If this is right for you, or someone you know, we hope you will join us.

LPC's monthly Grief Support Group led by Rev. Herrin will meet **December 8th** in the back room by the nursery following worship.

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 Sunday, December 8th.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. On Sunday, December 15th an envelope will be in the bulletin for your use. Envelopes can be placed in the offering basket. Checks should be made payable to LPC with a notation “Joy Offering”.

Men of Purpose will be starting a new book, "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans on December 7th. Books are available in the church office for \$10.
For questions contact Bill Walker: billwalker42@gmail.com.

Join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Services at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Nursery for children ages 6 and under will be provided at the 4pm service only. **Scripture readers for both services are needed. Contact Rev. Herrin by phone or email to volunteer.**

If you are looking to take your camera skills and photography interest to the next level, or join a spiritually rewarding team, the LPC live stream crew would love to meet with you! We are looking for persons who would enjoy assisting once a month with presenting our worship service to at home or away individuals. No previous live stream or audio visual experience is necessary! All training and coaching is provided! Please contact Lila Wright at wrightlc268@yahoo.com or 334-703-0602.

Thank you - Frank would like to thank all those who sent him a card or an email and prayed for him after his recent surgery. Your kindness was greatly appreciated. Elaine would like to thank the members of Session who identified a need and lightened her responsibilities. We are so blessed to have a loving church family.
Frank and Elaine Branda