



The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

December 2017

Message From the Pastor

Why Don't We Sing Christmas Carols Earlier?



Christmas is on December 25 and the twelve days following ending with Epiphany. In the weeks before Christmas Christians experience Advent — a season of waiting, watching, preparing, longing.

I know those are not popular verbs in our world today.

- Waiting? "I want it now!"
- Watching? "I want to get in the game."
- Preparing? "Ready-to-go meals, no-assembly-required toys, and relationships-without-work are what I want."
- Longing? "I want a quick fix. I'll fill that emptiness with too much stuff, alcohol, Netflix."

Truth is we need Advent. Jesus has come and is coming again. But in the meantime, we live as expectant people, looking for God's hand at work among us. Our Scriptures in the weeks leading to Christmas Incarnation are about repentance, relying on God, working for peace, hoping for renewal, love in the flesh, and deep and abiding joy. We have ways you can practice faith through devotional readings, Reverse Advent Christ Child gifts, Angel Vespers, Advent studies, the Joy Offering. We sing, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus."

These are the gifts of this season.

I hope you will unwrap a few of these gifts this season and discover the PRESENCE of the Living and Holy God who comes to us daily in the Child born dirt poor in a barn, welcomed as a stranger, and who lived, died and was raised for us to bring everlasting life in the next and abundant life NOW!

When we have prepared for his coming, we sing of Christmas joy without abandon and enjoy the silent night of peace.

Peace, Hope, Joy, Love,

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor

Joining together on a journey of Christian faith, we seek to be Disciples of Christ and to share God's love in our community and around the world.

We do this as we Glorify God, Grow Disciples, Meet Human Needs.

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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Mary Morrison, AP for Discipleship
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Cyndi Davis, Children's Ministry Coord.
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Becky Bowman, Pianist
Lori Houck, Administrator
Judy Crawford, Administrative Assistant
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

12/3 1st Sunday of Advent

Isa. 64:109; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

12/10 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

12/17 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126;
1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

12/24 4th Sunday of Advent

Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

12/31 1st Sunday after Christmas

Isa. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 148;
Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

January

The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the January issue of *The Window* is **Friday, December 15.**

Please email your item as a Microsoft Word document to the church office at window@forthillchurch.org or type the item directly into your email and send. If possible, please keep your articles to 500 words or less.



Alan & Ellen Torrence in the death of Ellen's sister, Kelley Carswell, on November 2 in Marietta, GA.

Marvin & Joan Dixon in the death of Joan's mother, Alta Randall Kingman, on November 15 in Lake Wylie, SC.

The family of **Harles Carter** who passed away on November 15 at Clemson Downs.

Doug & Lynn Carlson in the death of Doug's nephew, Billy Wellbourn, on November 18 in San Diego, CA.

Laurence & Betsy Mudge and family in the death of Laurence's father, Clifton Mudge.

LESSONS AND CAROLS
12.17.2017
Fort Hill Church
8:30 & 10:45

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
5:00 Family Service
9:00 Communion
12.24.2017

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN WORD AND MUSIC

December Special Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 3 — 7:00 pm

Clemson Singers Concert in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 13 — 6:30 pm

Angel Vespers in the Sanctuary (Dinner at 5:45 in Tartan Hall)

Sunday, December 17 — 8:30 & 10:45 am Worship Services

A worship service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 & 9:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Sundays, December 24 & 31 — 10:45 am Worship Service

One Worship Service only — No Bridge classes

Choir Corner

As we met for our Music Committee and Worship Ministry meetings in November, you can probably guess what the main topics on the agenda might have been. That's right! Advent and Christmas!! They come around every year like clockwork. The dates may vary a little bit as to when Advent begins, but Christmas is ALWAYS on December 25!! If you have never had the opportunity to serve in one of these areas, let me assure you that there are many details that most of us may not think about. It's just like when you prepare your home for the holidays. You make sure that you have all the decorations you need; all the food you need to prepare; know how many will be there; how many presents are on the list to buy; and the list is endless. Well, that's how it is at Fort Hill. Who is doing what on which Sunday? When do the children and youth present Angel Vespers? Who will be in the sound booth? Who will narrate? Who will play the parts of the characters? How many readers do we need for Lessons and Carols? Who will light the Advent wreath at 8:30? 10:45? Christmas Eve? Will all the choir members be present to sing or ring? How many bulletins need to be printed? When do we decorate? Who cleans up the candle wax? Who vacuums between the 5:00 and 9:00 services? WHEW!!! Are you tired yet?

I have realized as I have gotten older that it really doesn't matter how much you do or plan, Christmas is still going to happen and aren't we thankful it does? Christ was sent to bring light, hope and peace into this crazy world of ours. And the word I want to personally focus on is peace. His peace is there to surround us and comfort us, calm us, and permeate us.

In this Advent season of busyness and preparation for Christ to come, may his peace envelope you as we sing together from the beautiful carol, *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, "peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King"!

A Joyous Advent and Merry Christmas!

Smiling-n-Singing,

Margaret

Children's Ministry News

It's is "the most wonderful time of the year". This song phrase comes to mind as we prepare our hearts to rejoice in God's Greatest Gift to us.

Children's Ministry added a pre-Advent activity this year. Families were invited to begin their celebration of this special time in fellowship, by eating together, making Advent wreaths, and having an evening devotion. We are planning similar evenings for five months, January through May, on the third Sunday from 4:30—6:30 in Tartan Hall. Children and families are encouraged to come together for a relaxed evening with members of church family.

Special Gifts may be made in honor of loved ones by supporting Rise Against Hunger food truck food packaging event by making a donation to purchase meals. Information is available in the Narthex beginning December 3.



Families gather to prepare their hearts and home for Advent.

December Events:

- Dec 3 4:00 pm** Visit with Santa at PSA
- Dec 9 9:30 am** Gift Day (3 years—fifth grade)
- Dec 13 6:30 pm** Angel Vespers in Sanctuary (Dinner at 5:45 in Tartan Hall)
- Dec 17 2:30 pm** Christmas Caroling at the Presbyterian Community in Easley
- Dec 24 10:45 am** Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service
- 5:00 pm** Family Candlelight Worship Service
- 9:00 pm** Communion Candlelight Worship Service

By the time you read this, the Sanctuary will be adorned with Christmas finery, homes will be decorated, and shopping for special gifts will have begun. Place Christ at the top of your family's list in order to fully experience the JOY of Advent.

Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

- 12/3 Dana Waters
- 12/10 Mary Morrison
- 12/17 Laura Conrad
- 12/24 Dana Waters
- 12/31 Mary Morrison

Elder at the Font—8:30 Service

- 12/3 Gary Mohr, Sr.
- 12/10 Donna McCubbin
- 12/17 Joanne Trenholm
- 12/24 No Service
- 12/31 No Service

Elder at the Font—10:45 Service

- 12/3 Mike Money
- 12/10 Jackie Ellis
- 12/17 Katherine Whisler
- 12/24 LeAnne Greene
- 12/31 Jim London

Birth—2 Year Old Nursery

- 12/3 Joan Dixon
- 12/10 Barbara Madison
- 12/17
- 12/24 Amy Worley
- 12/31 Janna McKale

3 & 4 Year Old Nursery

- 12/3 Meredith Lecroy
- 12/10 Jillian McLaurin
- 12/17
- 12/24 Debbie Collins
- 12/31 Sue Limber

Daily Devotions during Advent

As we anticipate the celebration of Christ's arrival in the world, you are invited to be led by the devotional publication "These Days" during the days of Advent. Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, through Christmas Eve you will find a scripture, brief thoughtful message, and prayer offered as guidance in seeking meaning in the birth of Jesus and how we respond. Printed copies will be available outside Tartan Hall and in the Narthex during Advent, and from December 17-24 the devotions will be available online each day on Fort Hill's website (forthillchurch.org). At this joyous time, and throughout the year, consider practicing daily prayer, the purposeful study of scripture, and sharing the good news through a dedicated time offered to God each day.

Sojourners' Class Invitation

The Sojourners' Class invites you to join them in their journey of growing in the Faith by implementing the new "Fort Hill Faith Practices," as introduced during recent sermons. Your attendance will enable you to have experiences with all seven practices, particularly by "Studying Scripture Purposefully" and "Building Relationships Intentionally." The class meets at 9:30 in the Club Room.

Sojourners' schedule for December:

- Dec. 3 *Colossians and 1 & 2 Thessalonians* led by the Burtons
- Dec. 10 *1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon* led by Bill Beckwith
- Dec. 17 Advent devotional and fellowship



ANGEL VESPERS

DECEMBER 13 AT 6:30
DINNER AT 5:45

FORT HILL CHURCH

Children, Youth, and Choirs
will present the
Christmas Story in song



Church Mouse



The Kirking of the Tartans is always a sign of fall for me. Thanks to **Chuck Cruickshank** and **Donna McCubbin** for organizing it. One of the best parts are the bag pipes played by **Devon Broome**. It is some of my favorite music. **The Altman Brass Quintet of Greg Day, Bruce Whisler, Wesley Day, Betsey Myers, and Christopher Sparace** provided some great sounds too.

Then there was the Minister's Cook-off that I could not get to, but Pastor Laura gave the names of those who helped raise money for Safe Harbor: **Marcia Sherman and Chris Torres organized our chefs from Fort Hill.**

While all this was going on, I was surprised to see a sweet family of four sleeping in our church for a whole week. I listened to **Mary Barron and Linda Gahan** explain about Family Promise and helping the homeless. What a great thing for Fort Hill to participate in and support! I am an unusual mouse in that I can read so I ran to the hall and saw all the names of those who signed up to help: **Cathy Spragins, Robin & Sydney Weeks, Heather Wright, Carolyn Stroup, Greg Bearden, John & Sally Martin & children, Barbara Madison, Tim Howard, Barbara Westall, Harrison Catoe, Ellen Torrence, Billie Jackson, Steve & Ethel Pettigrew, Catherine & Todd Latiff, Arlene Cheatham, Tom & Cathy McInnis, Lois Bro, Chuck Cruickshank, Beth Tanner, Beth Chapman, Claudette Bennett, Marcia Barker, Mary Morrison, Terri Smith, Cathy Olker, Lanny & Linda Parsons, Judy Blackwell, Laurel Whisler, Vernie Roberts, Cynthia Gravely, Jacquie Worley, and Sherry Kantzler.** It does indeed take a church to raise a family.

Special thanks to **Peg Rutland, Cathy McInnis, Steve Miller,** and **David Cundiff** for helping transport our members from Clemson Downs every Sunday.

A great time of the year to be Thankful for all who help and give to the church.

Inside the "Den"

Saying Thanks to Our Saints

On All Saints Sunday, our Mid-High Youth gathered for a conversation about who the "saints" are, anyway. It could be well-known people from history like St. Patrick or Mother Teresa or Martin Luther King, Jr. It could also be people in our own lives who have shown us the light of Christ through a kind word or action, including some who have now joined the Church Triumphant.

Later that night, our Senior Highs joined with PSA students to talk about saints and explore the scripture passage Laura had preached on that morning from Revelation 7.

All this talk about saints led our youth advisors to come up with a creative idea. How can we thank some of the saints in our church in a small, but meaningful way? The following Sunday, November 12, our Mid-High Youth got a chance to do that very thing by participating in a "Rake and Run" to show thanks to saints in our church by raking leaves and blowing off their yards. Our Senior Highs took the evening to write thank-you notes to some of the saints in their lives.

We are so thankful to all the saints who have had an impact on us. I hope you will take a moment to give thanks to God for the saints who have shaped your faith journey. And perhaps you may even reach out and thank them in person for those who are still with us on this side of the Kingdom!

Joyfully,

Dana



From the Finance Ministry

Through October, total income was \$761,727 while expenses were \$760,349 leaving a surplus of \$1,378. Overall expenses are at 81.3% of budget, while income is at 81.5%. Expenses year to date are 2% below budget while income is 1.8% below budget. Thank you for your support of Fort Hill and its ministries to members, community and around the world.

Bridging Generations Update:

Pledge giving for month was \$26,337.66. Non-pledge giving of \$195 and interest income of \$0.99 combine with pledged giving for a total of \$26,533.65.

Total income year to date:	\$ 327,438.00
Total expenses year to date:	\$ 49,007.00
Loan principal balance:	\$1,044,914.41

COMMIT 2018

It is not too late to submit your stewardship pledge for 2018, if you have not already done so. You can either place your pledge card in the offering plate, mail it to Lori Houck, or pledge online:

<http://www.forthillchurch.org/online-pledge-card>

Sharing the Good News

Throughout our faith journey, we all find ways to live out Fort Hill's mission in our community and around the world. Sometimes we purposefully search out ways, other times it seems, opportunities un-expectedly find us! Such was the case when I recently learned that the School District of Pickens County was teaming with the YMCA in Easley and Pickens to bring a top-notch mentoring program to area schools. The stated goal read, "to provide a framework of support to help students achieve their potential and discover their strengths". The timing was right for me to delve a bit further. Through Mentoring 101 classroom training and online courses, I learned some eye-opening statistics:

- In Pickens County, 51.4% of our students are on free and reduced meal plans, while 57.6% of students are living in poverty (based on other factors besides free and reduced meals).
- 6.9% are classified as homeless. With a student population of 16,400, that is over 1,100 students.
- Although accurate information is not available at the District-level, we do know that 41% of students in South Carolina live in single parent homes.

The need is evident, for awareness...for action...for you and me!

The belief of the Y-Mentor Program is that, "change happens through one-on-one relationships". Through YMCA communications and training, I learned that the primary focus of mentoring is not tutoring, though it can be incorporated. The 3 basic principles of mentoring are **LOVE, MODEL, & COACH**. Cindy Perry, Y Mentor Director for Pickens County states, "You may not change the entire world by this one mentoring relationship, but for the child/ teen, you have changed their world!" At this point in the fact gathering process, I was thinking, "OK, I can do this, I can give my time once a week to meet with my student at the school, and see where it all leads". But then, I received a communication from the program. It was part of a weekly education/pep talk, that arrives to my e-mail in-box each Monday morning. This one began:

Mentoring Reminder of the Week: Meeting Human Needs

There are human needs in the children we serve being met by having a friend, an encourager, and an advocate on their side to help them walk through life...

Epiphany! **Fort Hill engages in the shared vision of this life-changing program!** Review our mission and faith practices to identify the various links. Now, I've progressed from fact-finding to "all in". I invite you to pray for my new friend at Clemson Elementary School and our time together. The biggest thing the Y Mentor program asks of its mentors is commitment. New mentors make a 1-year commitment of 30 minutes per week, but the hope is that you'll renew that commitment to follow along with your student through their school years. There is an additional, optional layer of the program, called Outside Mentoring, which allows a mentor to take their mentee with their family to a ball game, amusement park, or even to church. As a new mentor, I'm taking things one day at a time, with an open heart and mind and hopefully, the prayerful support of Fort Hill's congregation.

If you would like to learn more about Y Mentor Pickens County, visit the website www.pcmca.net/mentor, or contact Cindy Perry, Mentor Director (e-mail: cindyperry@pcmca.net), or ask me. I'm learning something new every day!

Robin Weeks — Disciple of Christ, in Training

News from Presbyterian Women

THANK YOU!

Family Promise Coordinators Linda Gahan and Mary Barron wish to thank all of the volunteers who signed up to serve as caregivers for Family Promise October 22-29!

We at Fort Hill had **58 volunteers** who worked **282.2 hours** in five days to help care for our family. Please consider being a part of this wonderful ministry! Next time to hose is December 31, 2017 — January 6, 2018.

We would also like to extend a big **thank you** for all of you who donated boxes for **Samaritan's Purse** benefitting underprivileged children. Your generosity means so much to so many! Thank you, also, to those who cooked and cleaned up for the **Minister's Cook-off in November!** The Cook-off was a big success, raising **\$12,000** for Safe Harbor. Thank you for donating **clothes** to **Safe Harbor**. We took over 30 bags of clothes plus suits and coats on hangers to the Safe Harbor Resale Store in Greenville. Thanks to Joan Dixon, Susan Beckwith, and Gensie Waldrop for organizing and bagging the clothes and Linda Gahan for trucking them to Greenville.

Honorary Life Membership Nominating Forms

Each year we honor a member of our church with the Honorary Life Membership Award at our annual PW Birthday Luncheon. This award is given to a dedicated Christian whose witness, long and dedicated service, and spiritual influence in our community reflect the love of God and His church. Prayerfully consider the Presbyterian woman (or man) you would like to nominate for her (his) outstanding lifetime contributions to Fort Hill Church.

Nomination forms are due by December 15. For more information contact the Honorary Life Membership Committee: Marsha Sherman, Chair (654-1957), Rose Ross (654-3218), Gail Williams (287-0212), Claudette Bennett (654-4820), and Mary Barron (247-1322).

Christmas Gifts for Clinton Presbyterian Community

We will again be delivering Christmas gifts to the residents of Clinton Presbyterian Community on December 3.

We request that you donate the following gift items: Postage stamps, post-it notes, scratch pads, LARGE PRINT word search puzzle books, 2018 calendars, picture frames, LARGE PRINT paperback books, pens, pencils, small umbrellas, men's handkerchiefs, shower caps, hair brushes, laundry bags, combs, lip stick, nail polish, Emery boards, nail clippers, toothpaste and brushes, soap, lotion, Kleenex, greeting cards, socks, knee highs, batteries, mouthwash, deodorant, mesh laundry bags, flashlight with batteries and rain hats. **Please DO NOT wrap these gifts.** It will be much easier to distribute them to the appropriate resident.

Attention ALL WOMEN of Fort Hill Presbyterian

Mark your calendars now for our Winter Retreat on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 10:00 am—3:00 pm at Richland Presbyterian Church in Westminster, SC.

Speaker: Patricia (Trish) Gwinn, Pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Mauldin, SC

Please read the topic information she included along with her bio:

Get Out of that Pit!

Most all of us at some time or another have been "pit dwellers." Pain, sadness, boredom, temptation, or a loss of God's vision for us can put us in "the pit." When Christ said, "Come follow me," inherent in his invitation to come was the equivalent to leave the pit. Guided by Psalm 40 and Genesis 37:12-36, we will think about pit dwelling: how we get in them, how we get out, and how it is that God puts new songs in our mouths and hymns of praise on our lips!

Trish is a second career pastor. She received her Master of Divinity from Erskine Theological Seminary (2010) and her undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston (1984). Trish served as an associate pastor at Fourth Presbyterian in Greenville for six years before moving to Grace Covenant this past February.

This retreat is open to **all women** of our church. You do not need to be a member of a circle to attend. We want every woman hungry for fellowship and spiritual renewal to come and join us for this soul-nourishing event!

Get your name on the list by contacting a member of our PW Retreat Committee, Myra Cato (207-8765 or myracato@bellsouth.net), Pam Waddle (654-1049 or pam.waddle@yahoo.com), or Lois Bro (653-3315 or lbrodolls@bellsouth.net).

Dates to Remember

- January — Deadline for Honorary Life Membership applications is December 15
- January 27, 2018 — PW Retreat

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 3

7:00 pm

Fort Hill Church Sanctuary

Thank You!

Tommy and I so appreciate your cards, calls, and visits as we deal with this relentless journey with his ALS. Thanks also to Laura for willing to "go to jail" (MDA fundraiser) in honor of Tommy. Also thank you to Chuck Conrad and the youth "rake and run" group. What a helpful way to teach the gift of giving. We love our church family!

Tommy & Carol Pollock

Thank you for the encouraging cards and words during this sad time. We had a wonderful memorial service for my sister, Kelley, at Eastminster Presbyterian in Marietta, GA on Saturday, November 11.

Fondly, Ellen Torrence

glory to God in the Highest



December Fort Hill Church Activities

Saturday, December 2

9:00 am Clemson University Singers Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Sunday, December 3

12:00 pm APNC University Ministry — Conference Room
2:00 pm Children's Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
7:00 pm Clemson University Singers Christmas Concert — Sanctuary

Monday, December 4

12:00 pm PW Circle 1 — Club Room
3:00 pm PW Circle of Hope — Club Room
7:00 pm Habitat Meeting — Conference Room

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Sunnyside Café
5:30 pm University Ministry Meeting — PSA Student Center

Wednesday, December 6

Bible Study/Choirs — See Recurring Weekly Schedule below
6:00 pm Long Range Planning Meeting — PSA Student Center

Saturday, December 9

9:00 am Gift Day — Club Room/Ed. Bldg./Tartan Hall

Sunday, December 10

12:00 pm APNC University Ministry — Conference Room
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Education Building
7:00 pm PSA — Old Stone Church Communion

Monday, December 11

9:30 am PW Trinity Circle — Club Room

Tuesday, December 12

10:00 am Bible Study — Library
12:00 pm Discipleship Lunch — TBA
3:00 pm Building & Grounds Meeting — Conference Room
6:30 pm Adult Ministry — E-209
5:30 pm Staff Christmas Party @ The Chapman's home
7:30 pm PW Circle 2 — Library

Wednesday, December 13

Bible Study/Choirs — See Recurring Weekly Schedule below

Wednesday, December 13, continued

5:45 pm Dinner before Angel Vespers — Tartan Hall
6:30 pm Angel Vespers — Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14

9:00 am Preschool Christmas Program Practice — Sanctuary

Friday, December 15

9:00 am Preschool Christmas Program — Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17

Lessons & Carols Worship Services
2:30 pm Christmas Caroling — Presbyterian Community

Monday, December 18

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry — Hazel Sparks' home

Tuesday, December 19

9:30 am PW Coordinating Team Meeting — Club Room
11:45 am Pastors' Lunch — Clemson Downs

Wednesday, December 20

No Bible Study or Choirs
Home Communion
12:15 pm Pastors' Lunch — Foothills Community

Sunday, December 24

No Bridge Classes
10:45 am One Worship Service — Sanctuary
5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary
9:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day — Church offices closed

Tuesday, December 26

Christmas Holiday — Church offices closed

Sunday, December 31

No Bridge Classes
10:45 am One Worship Service — Sanctuary

Recurring Weekly Activities

Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service — Tartan Hall
9:30 am The Bridge — Faith Formation Classes
10:45 am Worship Service — Sanctuary
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Ed. Building (2nd & 4th Sundays)
4:30 pm Mid-High Youth — Youth Den
6:00 pm Senior High Youth — Youth Den
6:00 pm College Dinner, Worship & Discussion — PSA Center

Monday

4:00 pm Girl Scouts — Education Building
6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Club Room/Tartan Hall

Tuesday

9:30 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room
10:00 am Bible Study (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) — Library
5:30 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

Wednesday

10:00 am Wed. Morning Bible Study — Club Room
6:15 pm Strong Praises Choir (Grades K-3) — E209
6:15 pm Chancel Bells — Choir Room
6:45 pm Singers of Christ Choir (Grades 4-8) — E209
7:30 pm Chancel Choir
8:00 pm College Men's & Women's Group — PSA Student Center

Thursday

7:00 pm College Bible Study — PSA Student Center

Weekly AA Meetings

Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings at 8:00 pm and Friday at 12:30 pm in Room E205 of the Education Building.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries



12/1 Oron Broome
 12/2 Vernie Roberts
 12/3 Aaron Mantia
 Donald Spitler
 12/4 Elise Halbig
 Linda Newmark
 12/5 Lynn Carlson
 Chip Egan
 Alice Kennedy
 Jensen McInnis
 Hazel Sparks
 12/6 Laura Hunter
 Emily Miller
 12/7 Marchita Culpepper
 Joanna Walling
 12/8 Maddie Bruce
 Blackie Cook
 12/9 Olivia Mueller
 12/9 Addie Nebesky
 Elizabeth Sisson

12/10 David Collins
 Meredith Lecroy
 12/11 Lori Houck
 Bob Littleton
 Helen Wooten
 12/12 Amelia Alexander
 Leslie Hicklin
 12/13 David Bruce
 12/15 Danny Gregg
 Melanie Job
 Carter McInnis
 Mike Money
 12/16 Crew Lecroy
 Betty Long
 Allen Smith
 12/17 Cleo Gregg
 Jillian McLaurin
 Nickie Mueller
 12/18 Lee D'Andrea
 12/19 Eric Mueller
 12/20 Chuck Conrad
 12/20 Stephanie Scott
 Geoffrey Wilson

12/21 Will Hiott
 Mike Nebesky
 Tipton Wright
 12/22 Bryce Smith
 Jason Wilson
 12/23 Debbie Collins
 12/24 Linda Gahan
 Dan Greene
 Jan Kahle
 12/25 David Alverson
 Anita Fredman
 Hallarie Sehorn
 12/26 Bob Stout
 12/27 Marcia Barker
 Judy Koch
 Dorothy Vedder
 12/28 Alice Dorn
 Andy Martin
 Terri Smith
 Heather Wright
 12/30 Cheryl Aaron
 Calia Worley



12/5 Greg & Jane Sosebee
 12/8 Jason & Stella Hudak
 12/10 Eddie & Megan Chavis
 12/13 Kevin & Jessica Christenbury
 12/14 Philip & Meri Kate Marcum
 Bryan & Lauren Young
 12/17 Jay & Alice Kennedy
 Wes & Judy Koch
 12/18 Andy & Reagan Blondeau
 Michael & Helen Steele
 Pat & Lisa Street
 12/19 Kelly & Donna Crader
 12/20 Mark & Robbi Stokes
 12/22 Eric & Elizabeth Bost
 Darrel & Lanie Hedrick
 12/26 John & Claudette Bennett
 Hugh & Peggy Garner

Family Promise News, October 22-29, 2017

Thank you, Fort Hill Presbyterian, for the outpouring of love you showed our recent Family Promise guests whom we hosted at our church **October 22-29!** Many stepped up to volunteer, both from our church and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson. **Fort Hill had 58 volunteers for a total of 282.2 hours of volunteer service for our five days of hosting! UUFC had 8 volunteers and 55.5 hours of volunteer service for their two days of hosting! We logged a total of 337.7 hours of service! What a blessing!**

This hosting week we tried an online service called **Sign Up Genius** to recruit our volunteers. On the website there were descriptions of the various jobs and an easy way in which to see the hosting times that needed volunteers. We hope this was a more convenient way for you to sign up! We will still keep our white board sign up, too, for those of you who would rather not use the computer. **Our next hosting opportunity is December 31 — January 6. In early December we will again be asking for assistance in caring for our guests.**

There is no host congregation for part of the week before Christmas and accommodations are being arranged for shelter, but the families are needing holiday meals provided December 17-26, if any of you are interested in helping them.

Many thanks to the following people who recently volunteered to assist in the care for our guests:

Set-Up/Take-Down: Heather Wright, Mary Barron, Linda & Larry Gahan, Carolyn Stroup, Robin & Sydney Weeks, Shelly Burchfield, Barry Robinson, and Greg Bearden

Activity Hosts: Linda Gahan, Barbara Madison, Barbara Westall, Arlene Cheatham, Cathy & Tom McInnis, Aleta Robinson, Cathy Olker, Mary Barron, Tammy Fagan, and Mark Morrison

Prepare Dinner/Saturday Breakfast: Sally Martin & family, Chuck Cruickshank, Lois Bro, Beth Tanner, Beth Chapman, Mary Morrison, Terri Smith, Robin Denny, Lanny & Linda Parsons, Marcia Barker, Chris Torres, Helen Mohr, Clay Mohr, Dulcie Mohr, and Paige Durham

Overnight Hosts: Linda Gahan, Tim Heist, Harrison Catoe, Johnnie & Owen Van de Sande, Laurel & Bruce Whisler, and Judy Blackwell

Activity Hosts: Todd & Catherine Latiff, Linda Gahan, Ethel & Steve Pettigrew, Mary Barron

Shopping Volunteers: Ellen Torrence, Billie Jackson, and Barbara Westall

Laundry Volunteers: Sherry Kantzler, Jacquie Worley, Myra Cato, and Cynthia Gravely

Thanks again for the work you do to care for the less fortunate in our own community!

Mary Barron, mb1cb1@bellsouth.net and Linda Gahan, glinda1942@gmail.com
 FHPC Family Promise Coordinators

Return Service Requested

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Advent Giving Alternatives

With the start of Advent Season, Fort Hill has initiated a Reverse Advent Calendar Program to support local needs. Working with Clemson Community Care, food and household items most in need have been identified. A "Gifts for the Christ Child Brochure" has been prepared to accompany the Reverse Advent Calendar with daily readings, reflections, and suggested items to be placed in Christ Child Boxes that are being distributed. Families as well as individuals are encouraged to work through the calendar and brochure as a daily reflection gathering gifts for the Christ Child. Boxes can be decorated and brought to church so that we can celebrate our collective gifts on Christmas Eve. This Advent Program takes the place of the Christmas Baskets delivered in years past as we look for positive and sensitive ways to make charitable contributions. Individuals/families who are unable to shop for items, may donate — the cost of items on the list is approximately \$40 — donations for full or partial boxes are welcome.

Gifts may once again be made through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Targeted gifts including livestock, seed, implements, and water filters support global outreach. Catalogs are available outside the FHOG Office or online at presbyteriangifts.com In addition, the Christmas Joy Offering during Advent supports current and retired church workers and helps develop future leaders at Presbyterian schools and colleges. Indicate special offerings on checks or for cash contributions on envelopes available in the pews for Christ Child boxes or Joy Offering.