



# SUMMERVILLE Presbyterian Church

*Share Christ, Serve Others, Grow Together in Faith*

## 3<sup>RD</sup> CHRONICLES NEWSLETTER

December 2024 | Vol. XXVIII | No. 11

# Advent

*The Season of Hope and Expectation*



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Please see the Holiday Guide on page 13 for all December events.

- December 1 — Youth Christmas Luncheon
- December 8 — Christmas Cookie Decorating
- December 12 — FunTimers Christmas Lunch
- December 14 — Hearts of Summerville Christmas Party
- December 15 — Church Family Breakfast
- December 15 — Christmas Cantata
- December 17 — MMO Christmas Play
- December 19 — Ladies Luncheon at Italian Bistro
- December 20 — MMO Gift Wrapping Fundraiser
- December 22 — Christmas Joy Offering
- December 29 — Pig Pickin' Tickets On Sale

## FROM THE PASTOR



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year for the Advent Sermon Series, I am again using a theme and suggested texts for sermons from A Sanctified Art. The theme is entitled “What Can’t Wait.”

*Advent is a season of waiting, but is idle waiting what God wants of us? In preparation for the coming Messiah, we wonder together—what things can’t wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can’t wait for? Is it our praise, reconciliation, and proclamation? Is it the end of suffering, isolation, and fear? This Advent, we invite you to join us in imagining, prioritizing and preparing. As we wait, what can’t?*



Lisle Gwynn Garrity is an artist who developed a short film to accompany the series. She writes the following about the film’s development.

*“I was meditating on the precarious timing of Christ’s birth. God chooses an unwed, lower-class teenage girl forced to travel cross-country to be counted for the census in the midst of her third trimester. Matthew’s gospel tells us that Christ’s birth incites king Herod to mandate a mass infanticide, which forces Mary, Joseph and Jesus to flee to Egypt for refuge. God’s plan to enter the world in human flesh seems so perilous—so much could and did go wrong. This led me to wonder, what if God had waited? What if God had waited for some perfect day when all the world’s problems were resolved? What if God had waited for a moment—or for a human vessel—that might guarantee success?*

*“But God couldn’t wait. God dove into the mess and the muck of this world so that we might know love. In the same way, we can’t sit and wait around for our world’s problems to solve themselves. We can’t assume that a perfect moment or a fail-proof plan will emerge if we just hold out for long enough. We can’t wait to join God in being love known in flesh and bone.”*

### **God Couldn’t Wait Film Script**

What If God Had Waited?

*What if God had waited  
For Mary to be wed,  
For Herod to relent,  
For a legitimate birthing bed?*

*What if God had waited  
Until the powerful promoted peace,  
And the politicians agreed?*

*What if God had waited  
For a plan with no risk of failure,  
For a place that felt safe and secure?*

*What if God had waited  
For the anxious to find rest,  
For the cynic to know hope,  
For the brokenhearted to be whole?  
For the wars to cease,  
For the violence to end,  
For the fears to pass,  
For the weapons to be banned?*

*What if God had waited  
For the earth to heal,  
For the laws to change,  
For every life to matter the same,  
For the addict to be freed from shame,  
For the refugees to not be blamed?*

*What if God had waited  
Until all was calm,  
All was bright,  
For a future that might  
Never come?*

*What if God had waited?*

*But God couldn’t wait.*

*God couldn’t wait to be love known in flesh and bone—  
and neither should we.*

Art, Film & Words by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art  
LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**Pastor Anita**

# WORSHIP

Date	Special Day	Series	Focus/Title	Scripture(s)
12/1/24	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Advent: What Can't Wait</b>	God's Promised Day Can't Wait	Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122
12/8/24	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>		Repentance Can't Wait	Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12
12/15/24	<i>Third Sunday of Advent (10:00 am)</i>	<b>Christmas Cantata</b>		
12/22/24	<i>Advent 4</i>	<b>Advent: What Can't Wait</b>	Courage Can't Wait	Matthew 1:18-25
12/24/24	<i>Christmas Eve – 5:00 pm</i>	<b>Family Service</b>		
12/24/24	<i>Christmas Eve – 7:00 pm</i>	<b>Advent: What Can't Wait</b>	What Can't Wait?	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20), Isaiah 9:2-7
12/29/24	<i>10:00 &amp; 11:00 am services only</i>			

Please note some special worship opportunities and schedule changes for the month of December. Of note is December 15, when we will have only one service, the Christmas cantata at 10:00 am. On Christmas Eve we will have two services: the 5:00 pm Family Service and the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service. Also, on December 29 we will have two services: the 10:00 am Contemporary and the 11:00 am Traditional.



## Contemporary Music

Hello! Here's what's new with the Praise Team.

Nick is doing so much better! He's been playing with us every week, and we're so glad to have him back. Thank you for all your prayers.



This December, we will be implementing some favorite Christmas carols as well as songs that specifically highlight the birth of Jesus and the impact His life would have on us. Joaquin (Wayne and Carol Mayberry's grandson) is planning to play a song on the piano for the Contemporary Service. We hope to include him in the Praise Band as well. Joaquin is in the 5th grade, and we definitely encourage other young musicians to perform.

During this season, we often collaborate with the Traditional Service, so we look forward to combining with William and the choir. We hope to see you there, too.

Come join us for our Contemporary Service at 10:00 in the gym and sing along!

**Julia Miller and Joe Swisher**  
Co-Directors of Contemporary Music





# WORSHIP MUSIC



Brothers and Sisters,

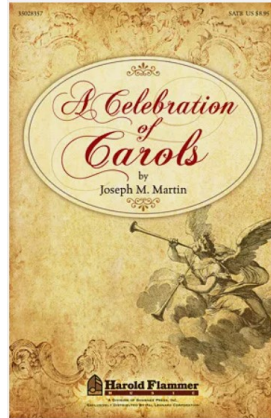
Advent is a season for singing and for waiting—waiting on the promises of light and love in our world. As such, we are incorporating Victor Johnson’s “We Wait for Thee” for our Advent

candle lighting that will connect with Pastor Anita’s sermon series.

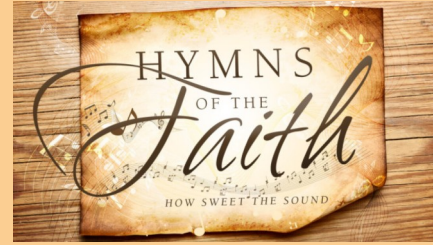
The Chancel Choir has been holding combined rehearsals with the Peace Presbyterian Church of Goose Creek choir, and the cantata is really coming together! We are looking forward to Advent and our musical offerings. Jewel Tones and Handbells will present Advent favorites on December 8, and the Chancel Choir will be presenting the cantata on December 15 for worship.

Also, I would like to introduce our newest ensemble, “The Rocks of Ages.” This is our tenor/bass ensemble that is rehearsing on Wednesday nights to prepare repertoire for future worship services. They sang for the November 10th service, and we are looking forward to future worship offerings. We have plenty of room for any interested singers to join us!

Finally, we are planning our Christmas Eve offerings and will have all of our musical ensembles represented as our waiting culminates in the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



**William Bennett**  
Director of Music



## COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

John Francis Wade, author of this hymn, was hounded out of England in 1745. He was a Roman Catholic layman, but because of persecution he fled to France where communities of English-speaking Catholics gathered.

But how could he, a refugee, support himself? In those days the printing of musical scores was cumbersome, and copying them by hand was an art. In the famous Roman Catholic College and Ministry Center in Douay, France, Wade taught music and became renowned as a copyist of musical scores. His work was exquisite.

In 1743, when Wade was 32, he had produced a copy of a Latin Christmas carol beginning with the phrase “Adeste Fidelis, Laeti triumphantes.” Initially historians thought Wade had simply discovered an ancient hymn by an unknown author, but most scholars now believe he composed the lyrics.

Wade died in 1786 at the age of 75. His obituary honored him for his “beautiful manuscripts” that adorned chapels and homes.

As time passed, English Catholics began to return to Britain and brought Wade’s Christmas carol with them. More time passed, and an Anglican minister named Rev. Frederick Oakeley was deeply moved by Wade’s Latin Christmas carol and translated it into English. The first line said: “Ye Faithful, Approach Ye.”

Somehow, “Ye Faithful, Approach Ye,” didn’t catch on. Oakeley became a Roman Catholic priest, and perhaps his grasp of Latin improved, because he finally came up with the simpler, more vigorous, “O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant!”

So two brave Englishmen, Catholics, lovers of Christmas and lovers of hymns, living a hundred years apart, writing in two different nations, combined their talents to bid us come, joyful and triumphant, and adore Him, born the King of angels.

Excerpted from **Then Sings My Soul** by  
Robert J. Morgan



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## Mother's Morning Out Update

November was a wonderful month at MMO and filled with activities! Our fall art walk was a huge success, with nearly 100 family members in attendance. November had us talking all about being thankful. We had lots of turkey activities, including our annual Thanksgiving lunch. December is the most wonderful time of the year, and MMO is focused on Jesus being the reason for the season.



We are having a **Book Fair** December 13-20, and I encourage you to come shop for any children on your gift list!

We will present our first-ever **Christmas Play** at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 17 and hope you will join us.

On December 20, we are holding a **Christmas Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser**. Bring the gifts you would like wrapped, and the MMO staff will wrap them with ribbons and bows in return for your donation to our MMO program. I'm thinking this is a win-win!

After December 19, MMO will be on break until January 7. I will be in the school working diligently to plan for the new year, so pop in and see me any time!

### MOTHER'S MORNING OUT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We have immediate needs for Goldfish crackers, pretzels, Cheerios, sandwich crackers, Pirate's Booty, cheese cubes, vanilla wafers, muffin mixes, boxes of raisins, fruit and cereal bars, Pop-Tarts Bites, Veggie Straws, fresh fruits, baby snacks (yogurt melts or pouches), and baby wipes. Please bring these to the church office.  
**THANK YOU!**

## More Updates!

### Joy Kids

Joy Kids (K4-5th grade) are planning to be involved with the Christmas cantata on the 15th at the 10:00 service, and our Christmas party will be that same afternoon starting at 4:30 pm. Until then we will be taking part in our series **"Unwrapped: Revealing What God Is Like."**



### Nursery

We are truly thankful for our Nursery staff! Ms. Kim, Ms. Emily, Ms. Tonya, Ms. Ginny and Ms. Alexandra all give their time to seeing that our children are well taken care of on Sunday mornings. We are looking for volunteers that might come alongside and help out on Sunday mornings as our congregation continues to grow! If you can volunteer, please contact me by email: rebeccam.spc@gmail.com.



### Sunday School

We are using the **"Camp Carols"** curriculum in Sunday School. Please join us at 10:00 each Sunday morning!

Blessings,

**Rebecca Mills**

Director of Children's Ministry and  
Mother's Morning Out

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

MMO CARD-MAKING CLASS — Dec. 6  
MMO BOOK FAIR — Dec. 13-20  
JOY KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY — Dec. 15  
MMO CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PLAY — Dec. 17  
MMO GIFT-WRAPPING FUNDRAISER — Dec. 20

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH & OUTREACH



**Jennifer Grainger**  
Director of Spiritual Growth & Outreach



**KICK-OFF TO  
ADVENT  
YOUTH  
LUNCHEON**  
DEC | 1 | 12:15  
*Let's Kick-off the Advent  
Season with lunch at McAlister's*  
RSVP TO JENNIFER AT  
JENNIFERG.SPC@GMAIL.COM  
\*WE WILL TAKE THE BUS AND PLAN  
TO BE BACK AT THE CHURCH BY  
2:15PM\*

KINDLY JOIN US FOR  
**CHRISTMAS  
COOKIE  
DECORATING IN  
LANNEAU HALL**  
DEC 8 9:45  
HOSTED BY  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRY  
TEAM  
ALL AGES WELCOME!!!

**Join us for Christmas  
Ornament Making!**  
**Sunday, December 15**  
**9:45-10:15 in the Education  
Building Hallway**

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS  
PAJAMA PARTY**  
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE FESTIVE PAJAMAS AND JOIN  
US FOR PIZZA, GAMES AND A CHRISTMAS MOVIE  
BRING A SWEET OR SALTY SNACK TO SHARE  
**15 | DEC | 5PM**  
105 WOODLAKE DR, 29485  
Pick up at 7pm





# SPIRITUAL GROWTH & OUTREACH

Lanneau Hall

Our next meeting is  
Wednesday, December 4th

## WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD

With Pastor Ralph at  
noon on the first  
Wednesday of each  
month

All are  
welcome!



SUMMERVILLE  
Presbyterian Church  
*Share Christ, Serve Others, Grow Together in Faith*

All children will have the  
opportunity to  
participate in the  
service

The  
service  
will  
conclude  
at our  
outdoor  
nativity  
scene

For unto us  
a child is born!



## Christmas Eve Family Service- Lessons and Carols

December 24, 5pm in the Gym



## INTERESTED IN HELPING CONNECT PEOPLE TO THE CHURCH IN 2025?

Interested in starting a  
small group in 2025? Come  
meet with Jennifer and let's  
see how we can get it started!

- \*December 9- 11am
- \*December 11- 6pm
- \*Both times will meet in  
RM305

## Youth Calendar December 2024

- 12/1: Advent Kick-off Lunch
- 12/8: Christmas Parade- details TBA
- 12/15: Christmas Party at Jennifer's house,
- 12/22: Come worship with Jennifer at 11am,  
then stay for Nativity Practice
- 12/29: No Youth
- 1/5: No Youth
- 1/12: Winter Youth Kick-off



## NURTURE

THANK YOU!

Dear SPC Family, Thank you very much for the many cards, phone calls, beautiful flowers, and especially your prayers. I appreciate your kindness. It has been over eight and a half months since I have had Bell's palsy affecting the entire right side of my face. May God bless each of you. Love, **Nancy J. Fleury**

Zach (Storti), Our sincere thanks to you and the staff of SPC for having us prepare your meals for WNL. It is always a pleasure!  
**Toni and Cristi from Parish House Catering**

A big thank-you to Congregational Care for notes and flowers, and to our deacon Phil Dunham who contacted us. We were able to enjoy our trip, and Bill has now healed up from everything. Praising God for nothing broken or seriously wrong after our falls. Thank you for all your love and care. **Bill and Marilyn Iverson**

Your support has meant the world to us. **Ray and Emma Douty**

Dear Friends at Summerville Pres, Thank you for your recent gift to Thornwell and continued support! We are blessed to walk alongside you as we serve children and families in need. Thank you! Blessings, **Rebecca Cox**

I'd like to thank Pastor Anita, the Congregational Care Committee, Follow the Carpenter, Transportation and the office staff for their wonderful support. Also, thanks to those that could make it to Ron's memorial service. He would have been so touched by the turnout as I and my family certainly were. Thanks for all the cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and emails! I also need to thank my son-in-law, Daryl Smith and daughter-in-law, Leigh Anne, whom I left out inadvertently when thanking family members for their love and support when giving the eulogy. Moving on for me will be difficult and take some time. I will miss Ron always. He was my one

and only, and we were together for 50 years. We met in Quito, Ecuador .when we both worked for the State Department, in 1974. Our oldest daughter, Michelle, was born in Quito, and Elaine, our youngest, was born in Canberra, Australia. It was an interesting life overseas for us, and we will always cherish such wonderful memories. Yours in Christ, **Modena DeBrosse and Family**

A super big THANK YOU to Sharlene Douthit-Schneidmuller and the whole Douthit family for their generous donations to the blessing bags, MMO and sock/blanket drive. Your support, kindness and love always bless others! **From SPC**

Dear SPC Family, We can't thank you enough for all the love, support and prayers we've received since losing our son and brother Matt. From time spent with Anita and Ralph, to the gorgeous music provided by William, Jim, and the Jewel Tones, to Sharon Klein, Marilyn Long and Congregational Care taking care of all the details for the service and reception, to the lovely purple prayer shawl, to Jerry and Jean Davenport giving us niche #23, and to our amazing friends in our Genesis Sunday School Class for all the food, visits, texts and calls—we are overwhelmed and grateful. Matt's service was simply beautiful. It meant everything to me to celebrate his life in our church home. Thank you to everyone who made it so special. With love, **Allison, Terry, Abby and Grace Simpson**

Dear Anita, Thank you for all you do to help us understand and become closer to God. You have unique talents that make you approachable and receptive to everyone. In particular I want to thank you for engaging and guiding Julia to be her best. Through Julia I found SPC, and this is a true joy in my life. May the Lord bless you daily. You are treasured and loved by many people. In Christ, **Anna Fowler**

**Congregational Care Needs Your Care** Years ago, a committee was formed by those who sought to express care to members of the congregation who might need encouragement in the form of a call, a card, a visit, a meal or perhaps even a bouquet of flowers. Though the bringing on of Deacons served in some of these duties, there is still need for a team of true caregivers. This committee was, and is today, a group of servants that act as its name indicates—the Congregational Care Team. Unfortunately, the number of serving caregivers has dwindled this year but the needs have not. We need more volunteers. Are you interested in this means of serving others within our church in a valuable and meaningful manner? The Congregational Care Team meets on alternate Mondays at 9:30 am in Room 101 of the Education Building. Come, attend one or more meetings and decide for yourself if this outreach of care and concern is right for you. We look forward to seeing you.



# CLARENCE'S CORNER & MILITARY PRAYERS

## Clarence's Corner

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas, friends!

My Mom and I are busy decorating our home for the holidays, and my favorite part is hanging stockings by the fireplace. I can't wait to see what Santa leaves in mine!

Do you know where the tradition of hanging stockings comes from? I came across this interesting tale that claims to be the origin story of stockings. Enjoy this excerpt from *Smithsonian* magazine (Dec. 14, 2012).

"The most popular legend about why stockings are hung at Christmas goes something like this: A recently widowed man and father of three girls was having a tough time making ends meet. Even though his daughters were beautiful, he worried that their impoverished status would make it impossible for them to marry. St. Nicholas was wandering through the town where the man lived and heard villagers discussing that family's plight. He wanted to help but knew the man would refuse any kind of charity directly. Instead, one night he slid down the chimney of the family's house and filled the girls' recently laundered stockings, which happened to be drying by the fire, with gold coins. And then he disappeared."



Merry Christmas to all my friends in Christ. Don't forget to hang your stockings!

With Puppy Kisses,  
**Clarence**  
Congregational Care Dog

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



## Military Prayer List

- ◆ Michael Arnold, Army, Hunter Air Field, Savannah, GA (Nancy Piscatella's grandson)
- ◆ Cade Carpenter, USAF, Honolulu, HI; Zoë Carpenter, USAF, Scotts AFB, San Antonio, TX (Kathy Whittle's nephew and niece)
- ◆ Derek Craver (son of Don and Patricia) Navy, Jacksonville, FL
- ◆ Quincy D'Antonio (Linda Wigfield's grandson) Health Clinic, Navy Base, BHC Diego Garcia, Indian Ocean
- ◆ Jack Graves (Sally and Lionel Lawson's grandson), Army, Fairbanks, AK
- ◆ Elijah Kellar (Robert and Sue Wearn's nephew), US Navy, Long Beach, MS
- ◆ Trent Kern (Bill and Gail Hausler's grandson-in-law), Air Force, Charleston AFB, North Charleston, SC
- ◆ Matt Kitchen (Merrilyn Long's nephew) Coast Guard, Schererville, IN
- ◆ Andre Maurice Moncrief (son of Sherry Roberts), Army Reserve, Modesto, CA
- ◆ Lt. Parker Northrop (son-in-law of Hunter and Perry Harris) Navy, Sicily
- ◆ Sebastian Silvers (son-in-law of Chris and Rebecca Mills) Army Flight Engineer, Ain Al-Asad, Iraq
- ◆ Andrew Tuttle (Patty Taylor's great nephew) Army, Fort Wainwright, AK
- ◆ Capt. Charles Young, USNR, NAVWAR, CYBER EAST
- ◆ HM2 (FMF) Nathan Herrington, Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsman School

Please let the church office know when changes occur. Thank you.



# FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP



The offerings along with monies received for the use of facilities and the total expenses for the one month of October and year-to-date are as follows:

	Monthly	Year-to-Date
Receipts	\$ 51,572.00	\$704,112.00
Expenses	\$ 73,995.00	\$674,820.00
Excess (deficit)	\$ (22,423.00)	\$ 29,292.00

Monthly Receipts and Expenses fluctuate, which has resulted in 2024 year-to-date excess revenues over expenses of \$29,292. January, February and March revenues reflect numerous IRA contributions which is consistent with the prior year; the result is a large excess which is be used throughout the year. The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for financially supporting our church.

## STEWARDSHIP 2025



I was musing on the words “faithful” and “thankful” today, thinking about how they flow from and into each other and what their connection says to us in this stewardship season.

**Because God is faithful, we are thankful.** In Exodus 34:6, God describes himself as “abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.” God demonstrates his faithfulness through the gift of His Son, Jesus. Additionally, God promises to take care of all our needs, and gives us other wonderful gifts such as family and friends, purpose and pleasures. God’s faithfulness to us is the foundation for us to express our thankfulness to Him.

**When we are thankful, we are faithful.** In our worship and our prayers, we express our gratitude to God for all God has done for us. When we take time to be thankful, not only does this please God, but it helps us to focus on what’s really important and allows us to keep everything else in perspective, measuring what really matters. As we count our blessings, we cultivate a desire to give back to God and to demonstrate our faithfulness to Him.

**God’s faithfulness to us leads to our thankfulness and faithfulness to God.** Perhaps this is another way we can define “stewardship.” One aspect of stewardship is our financial gifts to God’s work, and I am thankful that so many of you have chosen Summerville Presbyterian Church as the avenue through which to demonstrate your faithfulness to God. As of this writing (11/19/24), we have 149 commitments totaling \$684,728 toward next year’s budget. This is 91% of our goal of \$750,000!

Thank you to those who have already pledged toward SPC’s commitment to Share Christ, Serve Others and Grow Together in Faith. I invite those of you who have not yet made or renewed your pledge to please consider doing so for we have much to be thankful for as we celebrate our faithful God!

In Christ’s service,  
Pastor Anita



Use this QR code to make your pledge.

**2025 Stewardship Committee:** Jim Bailey, Michael Browder, Luke Page, Stephen Richardson, Kathryn Tupper, Henk Van Der Meyden

## CREATE YOUR LEGACY

**"You Are Blessed to Be a Blessing"**

*Genesis 12:1-3*

To explore the options and benefits offered through Legacy Giving, and to send a message of love and hope to future generations, pick up a “Legacy” flyer in the church office and have a conversation with Cecilia Bond, Finance Manager. All discussions are confidential and without obligation.



# SESSION UPDATE & THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings!

Below are several items of interest of recent Session activity:

- Session approved the call of a Special Meeting of the Congregation in December to elect Elders and Deacons, as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The meeting will take place immediately following the 11:00 am service on the selected date.
- Session has begun reviewing membership for both the 2025 Personnel and Nominating Committees.
- Each year, the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery reviews the Clerk "Minutes Book" to ensure compliance with the Book of Order. I reviewed feedback with Session that we received regarding the 2023 Book. It was a very good report; a couple of items were noted and corrective action will be taken to address these issues.
- Session is looking forward to our annual meeting with the Deacons in December.

If you have any questions, please feel free to see me or contact me at [summervillepresclerk@gmail.com](mailto:summervillepresclerk@gmail.com).

Blessings,

**Oden Semones**  
Clerk of Session



By Ezekiel W. Mouse, Esq.  
Special to  
3<sup>rd</sup> Chronicles

"I so enjoy the Christmas season, Ezekiel! I am making a list of all I want to get done. Will you help me collect grass seeds for my famous Grass Seeds Delight cookies. They are better when they have time to ripen."

"Of course, we can do it today. What I enjoy about the season is the singing of all the familiar hymns in church. That is what puts me in the Christmas spirit."

"You do realize that all the old favorites used to be new hymns when first sung. People seem resistant to new hymns, which can prevent them from becoming 'old favorites'."

"You're right, Mary. That reminds me of how our favorite Christmas hymn came to be."

"It was in 1816 when Josef Mohr, an Austrian Catholic priest, wrote a poem about peace after the end of the Napoleonic wars. It featured the financial insecurity, fires, floods and famine left in its wake. The poem was set aside."

"In 1818 the Salzbach River flooded Mohr's church, St. Nicholas. He asked an organist friend to put his poem to music for two voices and a guitar. Since guitars were not approved by the Catholic Church, the song was sung after the Christmas Eve service."

"It was supposed to be sung just for that night, but an organ repairman heard the song and took it to Tyrol, an area noted for its choirs. It then spread across Europe, then to America."

"Thus was born the beloved hymn, 'Silent Night'."

"Do you think there are any new hymns that will become old favorites?"

"There is one that I hope will. It is hymn number 110 in our new hymnal, "Love Has Come." The words were written in 1996, and the music added in 2012 is a known French carol. Many new hymns are set to familiar tunes."

"I hope we get to sing it this Christmas season, Ezekiel, I am eager to hear it."



# SERVICE & OUTREACH



## HEARTS FOR SUMMERVILLE OPPORTUNITIES

December has always been one of my favorite months: lighting the Advent wreath, decorating the tree, a birthday cake for Jesus, special music and worship services, and gatherings of family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. With Hearts for Summerville, the Christmas season has become even more precious. In addition to all the things I look forward to each year, our Hearts Christmas party is becoming a favorite tradition. It is with much gratitude to SPC that we open the doors of your church to our 240 families and more, offering a community party unlike no other. This year we will have the event on December 14, and we would love your help to make it happen. Our party will include cookie decorating, a hot cocoa bar, Nativity-themed crafts, sharing the love of Jesus and, of course, gifts for the children. This is how you can help:

coming a favorite tradition. It is with much gratitude to SPC that we open the doors of your church to our 240 families and more, offering a community party unlike no other. This year we will have the event on December 14, and we would love your help to make it happen. Our party will include cookie decorating, a hot cocoa bar, Nativity-themed crafts, sharing the love of Jesus and, of course, gifts for the children. This is how you can help:

**\*\* Volunteer** Copy the link below to your browser to sign up or reach out to me.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go9040D4AAEA72FAAF85-52486840-aharts>

**\*\* Donate** Toys for children ages 0-18 are most welcomed and will be enjoyed and appreciated by our Hearts kids. Favorite items include Legos, Barbies, baby dolls, remote control cars, Hot Wheels or Monster Trucks, and more! We have created an Amazon wish list if you need ideas, and items can be brought to SPC, to Morningstar Storage at 3772 Ladson Road, or reach out to me.

**\*\* Pray** The children who will attend come from many backgrounds, and they all have a special story.

Their families desire and need your prayers for guidance, protection.



Thank you for helping to make our 2nd Annual Hearts for Summerville Christmas one to remember!

**Heather Kemble**

## Help Un-decorate the Angel Tree!



The Service Ministry Team is sponsoring an Angel Tree again this year during the holidays. The tree will be set up in Lanneau Hall by December 8, ready to be "un-decorated" by members of the congregation. Please select an angel and bring your gifts in a bag but unwrapped, and be sure to attach the angel tag to the bag. All gifts need to be brought in by December 18.

Social service agencies represented this year are: MacKay Mission, Light House (formerly Hope's House), Anchor House (formerly Home of Hope), Habitat for Humanity, Hands of Christ, Hearts for Summerville and Thornwell.

Checks for Hands of Christ may be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plate; please notate "HOC" on the memo line of your check. Mail checks for Habitat for Humanity directly to their office. If you have any questions, contact the church office or Kelli Kemmerer.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

## A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you to members of SPC for your generous donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and Montreat following Hurricane Helene. SPC sent donations of \$7,210 for PDA and \$3,110 for Montreat, in addition to \$5,000 from the Service Ministry Team for emergency relief. The Service Ministry Team will be looking for opportunities to continue supporting western North Carolina in its recovery efforts.

# SPC HOLIDAY GUIDE



## First Sunday of Advent - December 1

*Regular Worship Schedule*

Youth Luncheon (McAlister's Deli) 12:30 pm

## Second Sunday of Advent - December 8

*Regular Worship Schedule*

All Ages Christmas Cookie Decorating (Lanneau Hall) 9:45 am

Summerville Christmas Parade 2:00 pm

## Saturday, December 14 (Gym)

Hearts for Summerville Christmas Event 10:00 am

## Third Sunday of Advent - December 15

Church Family Breakfast 8:45 am

Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Combined Choirs – SPC/Peace Presbyterian Church/Joy Kids

Joy Kids Christmas Party (Lanneau Hall) 4:30 pm

Youth Christmas Party (Jennifer Grainger's home) 5:00 pm

## Tuesday, December 17

MMO Children's Christmas Play 5:30 pm

## Friday, December 20

MMO Christmas Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser 4:00 pm

## Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22

*Regular Worship Schedule*

All Ages Christmas Ornament Make-and-Take (Education Bldg. hallway) 9:45 am

## Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

Family Christmas Service (Gym) 5:00 pm

Praise Team

Living Nativity (Outside in front of Sanctuary) 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm

Jewel Tones, Handbells and Chancel Choir

## Sunday, December 29

Contemporary Service 10:00 am

Traditional Service 11:00 am

## Monday, December 30

College-Age Lunch @ Matt's Burgers 12:00 pm



# SERVICE, BIRTHDAYS & GUESS WHO



**THE 2024 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING  
WILL BE TAKEN ON DECEMBER 22  
AT ALL SERVICES.**



**White Gifts:** Join us in continuing the SPC tradition of bringing to the Christmas Eve services boxed or canned goods wrapped in white paper. During the service you will be invited to place them around the manger. These items will be donated to a local food pantry.



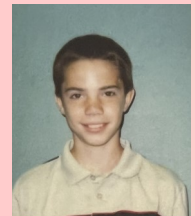
Gail Hyatt	1	Jack Finucan	16
Janice Lindmark	1	Tessa Elaine Peyton	16
Barbara Brown	2	Jeff Bowers	18
Marie Hawks	2	Paul Cooler	18
Cecelia Bond	3	Herb Boland	19
Robert Pratt	3	Scott Westmoreland	21
Lucy Richardson	6	Perry Harris	22
Caroline Wilcox	6	Jim Moore	22
Vincent Napoleone	7	Judy Underwood	22
Ed Lindsay	10	Cindy Van Horn	22
Kenneth Robbins	10	Jim Wylie	22
Bob Baker	12	Mary Bowers	23
Ava Sanchez	13	Jade Hill	27
Sheila Wilson	13	Carol Wylie	27
Ellen Burns	14	Sue Avenel	28
Deborah Davis	14	Don Craver	28
Lionel Lawson	14	Hayden Jasso	29
Jane Daffin	15	Amanda McFann	29
Kim Dunham	15	Charles Morgan	29
Virginia Lyles	15	Doug Hetu	31

## GUESS WHO?



**This young girl now has a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from MUSC. Who is she?**

**Answer from the November Guess Who? was David Hetu.**



**Our November winner was Carol Austin!**

**Submit guesses to [summervillepres@gmail.com](mailto:summervillepres@gmail.com).**

**First correct answer receives a gift card!**

# FELLOWSHIP



Thursday, December 19, 11:30 am

We will meet at

**Italian Bistro**

625 N. Main Street in Summerville.

Please contact Claudette Young by email at [claudetteyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:claudetteyoung@yahoo.com) or phone at (843) 991-1057 to confirm your attendance.



In December we are having a combined event for all ages!

**DECEMBER 12 @ NOON**  
**Christmas Lunch**  
**Sweetwater 123**  
**123 W. Richardson Ave.**  
**Summerville**

We will have a gift exchange game.  
Bring a \$10-\$15 gift suitable for both a woman or a man.

We will also have Christmas goodie bags for the kids!

Please fill out your Connection Card or call the church office to RSVP.



The staff of Summerville Presbyterian wishes you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Please note, the church office will be closed for Christmas on Wed., Dec. 25 and for New Year's on Wed., Jan. 1.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **SUMMERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Saturday, January 25**

**Dinner service**

**begins at 5:00 pm**

**SPC Gym**

**2025 Pig Pickin',**



**Tickets will be \$12 for adults  
and \$8 for children 12 and under.**

**\*Tickets will be available beginning  
December 29.**

## STAFF

Rev. Dr. Anita Herbert—Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Ralph Herbert—Discipleship Pastor  
Jennifer Grainger—Director of Spiritual Growth & Outreach  
Rebecca Mills—Director of Children’s Ministry/  
Director of Mother’s Morning Out  
William Bennett—Director of Music  
Jim Moore—Organist  
Joe Swisher and Julia Miller—Co-Directors of Contemporary Worship  
Cecelia Bond—Finance Manager  
Julie McCormick—Administrative Office & Communications Coordinator  
Shirley Gay—Sexton  
Bob Hirsch—Sexton

## SESSION

Fellowship— Sheri Page (Chair), Zachary Storti  
Nurture—Colin Martin (Chair), Charlie Harris  
Service— Kristi Selander (Chair), Kelli Kemmerer  
Spiritual Growth— Anna Winstead (Chair), Ana Hill  
Property—Lauch Blue (Chair)  
Finance— Henk van der Meyden (Chair), Jeff Bowers  
Personnel—Henk van der Meyden (Chair)  
Worship— Walt Morgan, Alicia Macomber (Co-Chairs)  
Clerk of Session— Oden Semones

## 3RD CHRONICLES

Proofreaders: Frieda Hughey, Merrilyn Long, Carol Austin, Janice Sharp, Elaine Segelken, Diane Burden  
Assemblers: Cecelia Bond, Barbara Grube, Gail Hyatt, Patsy Rose, Rose Warrell, Lynn Hawks  
Send questions, comments and news to [summervillepres@gmail.org](mailto:summervillepres@gmail.org)  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Chronicles deadline is normally the second Friday of each month.



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