

Mary Anne Crosby and Vera Devito, Ushers

Welcome to SPC!

We welcome you to worship this morning! Please fill out your Connection Card and place it in the offering plate during the closing song. There are Family tables at the back of the gym with activity boxes. Nursery is available during the service in Room 204. We invite you to the Welcome Center to learn more about SPC. Most Sundays coffee is available in front of the kitchen.



Advent Sermon Series: 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? Liturgy by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



ONE WITH MYSTERY By Lauren Wright Pittman (Inspired by Matthew 3:1-12; graphic image) A curious, odd, status quo-threatening man emerges in the wilderness of Judea. He shouts in the place of desolation—a dangerous place where God has repeatedly shown up throughout Israel's history. John lifts

up his voice, entreating people to make an about-face from the things that keep them from God, and move toward the new thing God is doing. He invites people to dip their weary bodies into the river, wade into mystery, and to tell the truth—taking on a posture of confession and surrender.

This eccentric man wears the clothes and eats the food of one living at the mercy of the land. His embodiment is that of an outcast, defined by common elements—camel hair, locusts, and honey. This is the one entrusted with introducing the world to God's incarnate self. John's cries bring the powerful to the edges of society where Jesus would spend his life and ministry. John points us to where God is to be found—in the wilderness, at the margins of power, at the periphery of looming, destructive systems, where the waters of Baptism ripple and swirl, where grace is abundant and God draws near. I drew John at one with the wilderness. His shape is hardly distinguished from the powdery textures and deep, cool colors of the waters of the Jordan. He is at one with the wonder and mystery of the coming Messiah. He holds out his hand, inviting the viewer to choose trust and dive fully into the unknown.

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE



ONE WITH MYSTERY

By Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by *Matthew 3:1-12*; graphic image
(See artist statement of the back of the bulletin)

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024

We Gather to Worship God ...

Gathering Music

***Welcome and Call to Worship:** Praise Team

***Call to Worship**

One: Prepare the way!

All: Deck the halls and light the candles.

One: Prepare the way!

All: Open the doors and sing a song of hope.

One: Prepare the way!

All: Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.

One: Christ is coming.

All: Prepare the way!

***Song:** “O Come All Ye Faithful”

***Song:** “Lord I Need You”

***Greeting**

Please introduce yourself during the greeting.

Announcements Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

Minute for Mission Jim Bailey, Stewardship

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Repentance Can’t Wait (Peace Can’t
Vera Devito and Mary Anne Crosby

Choral Response: “Even So Come”

We Listen to the Word of God ...

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12 Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

Sermon: “Repentance Can’t Wait” Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

We Offer our Prayers to God ...

Song: “Noel”

Prayer Requests Rev. Dr. Ralph R. Herbert

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Dr. Ralph R. Herbert

We Depart to Serve God ...

***Song:** “Joy to the World”

Please bring forward your tithes, offerings and Connection Cards at this time

***Benediction** Rev. Dr. Ralph R.. Herbert

***Departing Music**

We Respond to the Call of God ...

What is one takeaway for you from the service or sermon?

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Someone moving into your neighborhood? Go to one of our welcome centers and pick up a “Welcome to the Neighborhood” bag, which contains info about SPC. Add your own touches and welcome someone to the neighborhood and invite them to SPC!

Offerings can also be made through the Giving tab at summervillepres.org, scanning the QR code to the right or through the Abundant Giving app from Google Play or the Apple Store. Set up your account and choose Summerville Presbyterian Church.



Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Anita K. Herbert

Rev. Dr. Ralph R. Herbert

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

Jeff Bowers, drums, Robert Pratt, guitar, Vito Compitello, electric guitar,

Nick Couch, bass

Joseph Friday, Jason Lybrand and Zachary Storti, Audio-Visual

Kristi Selander, Elder-in-Charge

Announcements

Congregational Meeting: After the 11:00 am service today there will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing elders and deacons. The nominating committee will be presenting the following slate of officers for the class of 2027, unless otherwise indicated:

For Elder: Hunter Harris, Jade Hill, Mike Homola, Robert Pratt, Sharlene Douthit-Schneidmuller, Lauch Blue (class of 2025)

For Deacon: Rachel Altman, Vera DeVito, Jim Ferro, Skip Fetters, Rose Warrell, Sue Avenel (class of 2026), Lisa Blue (class of 2025).

Advent Readers: Are you or your family interested in being an Advent Reader one Sunday during the Advent season? Please check the connection card for the remaining dates and times, if interested select one. Julie will be in touch to confirm dates with you.

2nd Annual Hearts for Summerville Christmas Party: This year's event is on December 14 and we would love your help to make it happen. The party will include cookie decorating, a hot cocoa bar, Nativity themed crafts, sharing the love of Jesus and, of course, gifts for the children. Here are some ways we need your help:

**** Volunteer—** Use the link to sign up or reach out to Heather Kemble
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4AAEA72FAAF85-52486840-ahearts>

**** Donate—**Toys for children ages 0-18 are most welcomed and will be enjoyed and appreciated by our Hearts kids. Hot 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, Morningstar Storage at 3772 Ladson Rd or reach out to Heather.

****Pray—**The children who will attend this party come from many backgrounds and they all have a special story. Your prayers for guidance, protection and direction are desired by these families.

Looking for a way to stay in the loop of what is going on with our youth program? Use this link remind.com/join/8b3h6 to join our Remind group for youth. You will get text message reminders of events and other important dates.

Calling all of our college age members! Are you interested in spending a weekend in Montreat? Then the College-aged conference is for you! January 2-5, 2025. The cost \$150 and the church will scholarship the other half. This will cover your registration, lodging and meals. Names of participants are due to Jennifer Grainger by December 18th and payment is due by December 30th. Questions??? Reach out to Jennifer or see the Montreat website at <https://montreat.org/events/ccm25>.

Measuring What Matters Stewardship 2025: To pledge online for 2025 use this QR code or pick up a pledge card from the pew racks or church office.



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Christmas Giftwrap Fundraiser

DECEMBER 20TH
4-7PM

BRING YOUR UNWRAPPED GIFTS AND LET THE STAFF AND BOARD OF SUMMERVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S MMO DO THE WRAPPING FOR YOU!

Paper, bow and tag provided for each gift

Suggested donation of \$3 per gift, but you may donate as your heart leads you



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.

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ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree is set up in Lanneau Hall and is waiting to be "undecorated" by members of the congregation. The agencies represented this year include: Mackay Mission, Light House (formerly known as Hope's House), Anchor House (formerly known as Home of Hope), Habitat for Humanity, Hands of Christ, Hearts for Summerville and Thornwell Home for Children. Please don't wrap the gift you bring. Just leave it in the bag, and please be sure to attach the angel from the tree to the bag. 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. All gifts need to be returned by December 18. If you have any questions, contact the church office or Kelli Kemmerer.




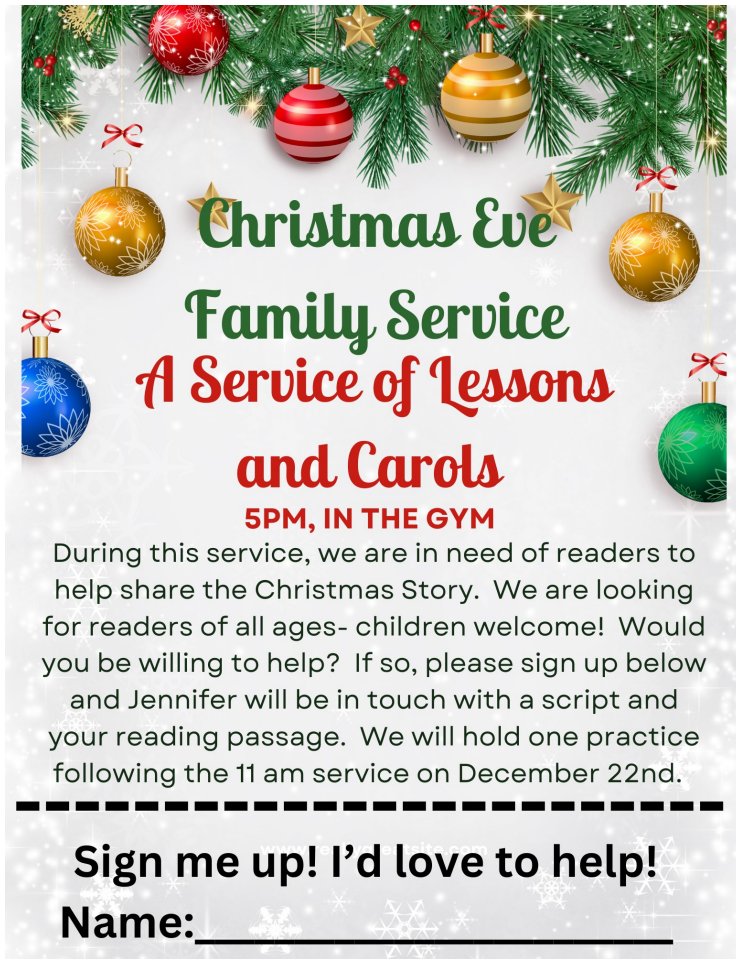

HAVE EXTRA CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PAPER?
NEED SOMEWHERE TO DONATE IT?
THE MMO WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOUR EXTRA WRAPPING PAPER FOR THEIR FUNDRAISING EVENT ON DECEMBER 20TH. PARTIAL OR FULL ROLLS OF WRAPPING PAPER CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.
QUESTIONS?
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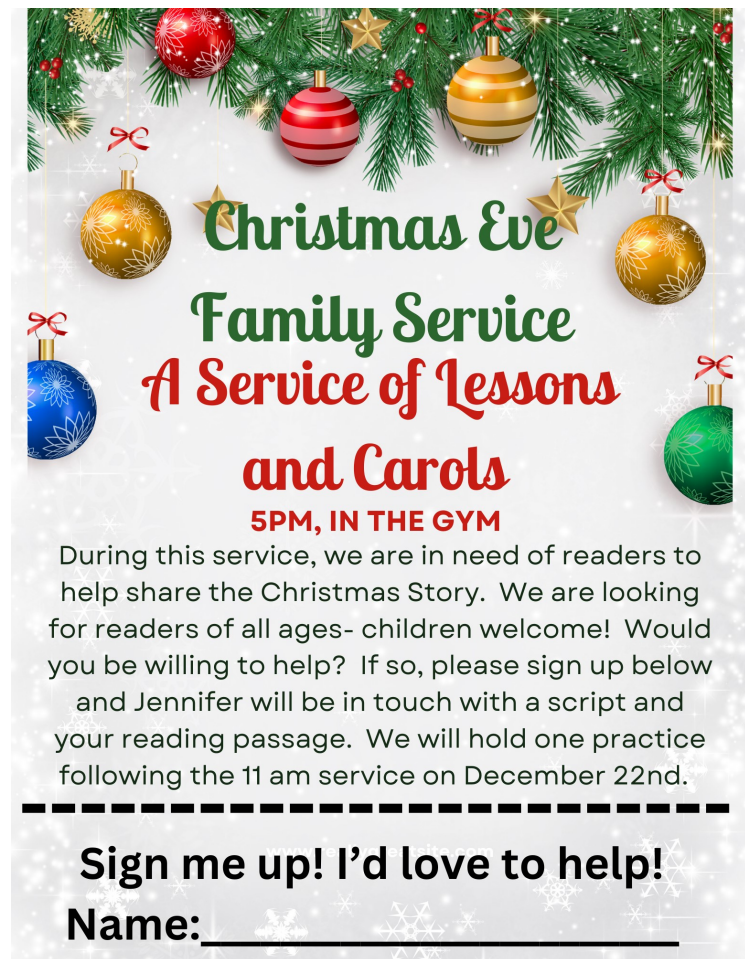

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Christmas Eve
Family Service
A Service of Lessons
and Carols
5PM, IN THE GYM

During this service, we are in need of readers to help share the Christmas Story. We are looking for readers of all ages- children welcome! Would you be willing to help? If so, please sign up below and Jennifer will be in touch with a script and your reading passage. We will hold one practice following the 11 am service on December 22nd.

Sign me up! I'd love to help!
Name: _____



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Ornament Making!**
Sunday, December 22
**9:45-10:15 in the Education
Building Hallway**



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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.”**



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**Christmas Eve
Family Service-
Lessons and Carols**
December 24, 5pm in the Gym



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Lessons and Carols**
December 24, 5pm in the Gym