

# First Press

December 2022

A publication of First Presbyterian Church | Hilton Head Island, SC

## Advent and Christmas At First Presbyterian Church

November 27

### First Sunday in Advent

#### Advent Devotional

Available Digitally or in Hard Copy  
at the Church

### Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary In Memory or Honor of Loved Ones

\$20 per plant; Deadline is December 16

December 2, 6:30 PM

### An Evening of Christmas Favorites

Featuring Composer Mark Hayes  
and Laura & Rusty Floyd  
*Reception to Follow Program*

December 4, 4:30 PM

### “International Carol Suites”

Performed by the Sanctuary Choir  
and Singers from the Community  
Directed by Mark Hayes, Composer

December 11, 9 AM

### CrossRoads Worship Service

Featuring Christmas Music

December 17 & 18, 5:30-7:30 PM

### Journey to Bethlehem

A Walk-through Live Nativity

Saturday, December 24

### Christmas Eve Services

4:30 PM Family Worship

8:00 PM Candlelight and Christmas Music

10:30 PM Candlelight and Communion

Sunday, December 25

### Christmas Day

One-Service Sunday at 10 AM

## “The Story of Christmas”



I love it. Advent and Christmas. The anticipation. The preparation. The carols: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” “Joy to the World!” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” The Advent wreath and its messages of hope, peace, love, and joy. (Some of us especially need to hear the hope or to

experience the peace or to feel the love or to know the joy.) The glow in children’s eyes! Singing “Silent Night” by candlelight on Christmas Eve. And, of course, the story of Christmas. I’m *grateful* and *need* to hear it again...in Scripture and sermon and song.

Especially after two Christmases in a pandemic, I’m *excited* to experience the story of Christmas this year—from Advent prophecies to the manger on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. And this year, we’ll also *enjoy* a special CrossRoads worship service;

“Journey to Bethlehem,” our walk-through live nativity; and the “International Carol Suites” performed by our Sanctuary Choir and singers from the community. To learn more about these and other holiday ministries here, including our three Christmas Eve worship services, see the front page.

I encourage you to invite family, friends, neighbors, and any others to join you for *any* of our Advent and Christmas events and ministries this year. Also, studies show that people who have no church affiliation or who are disconnected from the church often *yearn* to experience worship and Christmas activities this time of year because of deep-seated memories and emotions associated with Advent and Christmas. Invite them to join you as we relive together the opening chapter of “the greatest story ever told.”

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

*Will*

Pastor Will

## Giving Ministry

It is almost year end...is your pledge up to date? If you have forgotten to make your contribution toward your pledge, there is still time. You may visit the website, send your check to the church or use the QR code. Thank you in advance for your deep commitment to God as it transforms the work of First Presbyterian into doing for the least of these.

OCTOBER MEMBER GIVING			
	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	VARIANCE
<b>October</b>	\$151,826	\$161,957	(\$10,131)
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	\$1,379,600	\$1,619,574	(\$239,974)



We are in the midst of our 2023 Annual Pledge Campaign. To continue God’s life-changing work through this congregation, we need a personal and collective commitment to “Give...Grow...Glorify.” As part of that commitment, the 2023 Asking Budget of \$2,429,235 requires a pledge increase of 16%.

We have bold plans for 2023. It will take all of us working together. If you have made your pledge of support for 2023, THANK YOU! If you have not, please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge. We hope that you will feel the Spirit at work here at First Presbyterian. You may pledge online at [fpchhi.org](http://fpchhi.org) or pick up a pledge card in the church office.

— Jane Upshaw, Giving Ministry Chair

## A Message from Pastor Diane

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

—Galatians 6:2

First Presbyterian Church is a caring congregation, led by our deacons, and members who engage in our lay visitation ministry. These are valuable additions to the pastoral care Pastor Will and I provide. We are also a “Stephen Ministry” congregation, meaning that somewhere in our history we made a formal commitment to train and utilize Stephen Ministers for longer-term caring relationships. Currently, our Stephen Ministry is inactive, for various reasons, and in the new year I would like to explore what it might look like to re-launch it.

A few basics about Stephen Ministry:

- It offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.
- Stephen Leaders are church staff, lay leaders, and pastors trained to provide ongoing leadership for their congregation’s Stephen Ministry.
- Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by their Stephen Leaders to offer care to people who are hurting. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour.
- Care receivers are individuals in the congregation or community who are going through a crisis or life difficulty. Potential care receivers first meet with a pastor or Stephen Leader, who assesses their needs for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the need persists, often as little as six weeks, or up to a year.

Stephen Ministry, along with our deacons and lay visitation ministers, help other ministry areas carry out the mission of our congregation: *Changing Lives...Making Disciples*. As they serve, Stephen Ministers report their faith and reliance on God

deepening, their prayer life becoming more robust, and their trust greater in Jesus to be with them and work through them as they care for others. I have also heard care receivers say that they felt that Jesus was “showing up” in the person of their Stephen Minister, and that he or she embodied for them the love and care of the church in their time of need.



I would like to gather information and hear from you. Please consider joining me on either of these January 2023 dates (depending upon your past experience with Stephen Ministry) for a one-hour discussion. You may join in person or via Zoom.

**Wednesday, January 11**, 2 PM, in the Library. For those previously involved in SM (either here at FPC or at another church). I would like to hear your feedback about this ministry, what you consider its strengths and challenges, what role you played, and whether you would be interested in serving again in some way. I would like to get an idea of how many experienced Stephen Ministers and Leaders we have in our congregation. Even if you aren’t interested in serving again, your feedback at this session would be very helpful.

**Wednesday, January 18**, 2 PM, in the Library. For any member or friend of FPC interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry, and perhaps taking the training at some future point. We will go over the philosophy and basic points of the training and have a time of questions and open discussion. Please note: becoming trained will not obligate you to serve and you will find it very valuable even as applied to your everyday life relationships.

Mark your calendar now and watch for more details. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me via email, [dknauf@fpchhi.org](mailto:dknauf@fpchhi.org), or by calling the church office, 843.681.3696.

# Operation Christmas Child

## *Thanks to you, FPC packed a record-breaking 400 shoeboxes!*

November 13 was a very special day at our church in several different ways. For the first time, those who attended worship on the one-service Sunday had the opportunity to pray over the 400 shoeboxes that we are sending to Operation Christmas Child, through Samaritan's Purse.

These 400 shoeboxes packed with love will be going to children in some 100 countries to tell boys and girls about Jesus through Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse.

Every shoebox is a resource for evangelism and discipleship as these children hold in their hands a tangible expression of God's love.



**Program Chairs Robin Swift (left) and Martha Phillips**

Through the Global Outreach Ministry of FPC, this is a supported project for our congregation. Additional donations are provided by the congregation as they provide many items for the boxes.

children at camp, the Sarah Circle, the Empty Chair small group, and members of Pockets Full of Sunshine," said Robin Swift who has long chaired the project with co-chair Martha Phillips. "Many individuals reach out on their own each year to pack shoeboxes and help in making this project a reality."

*The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.*

The 400 shoeboxes contained the following:

- 400 washcloths
- 400 bars of Ivory soap (it floats for those who bathe in rivers)
- 400 toothbrushes
- 400 cups
- 2000 pencils
- 100 colored pencils
- 50 ballpoint pens
- 1200 erasers
- 400 pencil sharpeners
- 8000 sheets of notebook paper
- 400 match box type cards
- 400 bunnies made by the FPC Knitting Ministry (hugs)
- 400 stuffed animals
- 200 jewelry kits

In addition, many of the girl's boxes have sewing kits and fabric and the boy's boxes have hammers, screwdrivers, nails and screws. The older children all receive flashlights and extra batteries.

And, of course, the fun stuff is also in the shoeboxes — yo-yos, jump ropes, puzzles, dolls, Legos, etch a sketch, craft kits, crayons and coloring pages, and so much more!

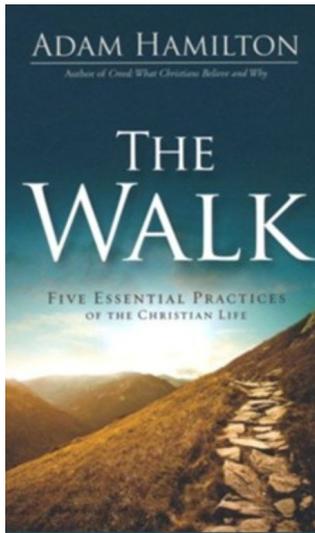


**A young FPC camper shares a look at the shoebox she packed.**

**Dr. Will Robinson**  
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

**Rev. Diane E. Knauf**  
Associate Pastor

With questions about  
FPC communications,  
email [cbobbitt@fpchhi.org](mailto:cbobbitt@fpchhi.org)  
[fpchhi.org](http://fpchhi.org)  
**843.681.3696**



FPC'S ALL CHURCH  
BOOK STUDY  
JANUARY 15-FEB 19  
JOIN A SMALL GROUP  
OR FOLLOW  
ALONG WITH  
THE SERMON SERIES



## All Church Book Study Begins January 15

After the first of the year, everyone is invited to join in reading Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk*. Some small groups will be discussing the book and there will be a sermon series in conjunction with the timing, January 15-February 19.

Books can be purchased from the church and are available via Amazon.

FOR CHILDREN OF JASPER COUNTY

# Toy Drive

FPC partners with Antioch Educational Center

Please donate new, unwrapped toys

For newborns & children up to 12 years old

Toy Drop Dec 1-13  
at First Presbyterian Church

540 William Hilton Parkway • 843.681.3696  
fpchhi.org

## Honor or Remember a Loved One With a Christmas Poinsettia

If you would like to order poinsettias, please call the church office, 843.681.3696, or go to GIVE on the website. You may also drop a check at the church. The deadline to order is December 16.

Each plant is \$20 and will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the three Christmas Eve services. You may pick up poinsettias after Christmas beginning Tuesday, December 27.



# Children's & Youth Ministry



## Children to Participate in Christmas Eve Service

All children are invited to take part in the Family Worship Service which will be held on December 24 at 4:30 PM in the sanctuary.



Recently the Children's Choir participated in worship at 10:30 AM. They were led by Children's Music Director Beth Green.

## Youth Group Members Bring Smiles to Village Cove Residents on Halloween



## Pickleball Has Become a Real Hit!



Each month FPC members gather to enjoy fellowship on the pickleball courts at Palmetto Dunes. They invite you to join them on Dec. 17, 3-5 PM. To RSVP, contact Debbie Berling, [berlingdebbie@gmail.com](mailto:berlingdebbie@gmail.com).



## Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up

Headed by members of the Social Witness Task Force, FPC members met at the church at 9:30 AM on November 12 for the last clean-up for the year. If you'd like to participate next year, contact coordinator Juliana Kim, [Julianabkim@gmail.com](mailto:Julianabkim@gmail.com). The Adopt-A-Highway program is part of FPC being an Earth Care Congregation.

## Adventures in Music (AiM) Rehearsing for Upcoming Performances

Members of AiM choir rehearse each Wednesday at 4:15 PM in the choir room. In December they will perform Christmas programs at the Cypress on Wednesday, December 7, at 4:30 PM and in front of Kilwin's (in Shelter Cove) on Sunday, December 18 at 1:30 PM. Be sure to get out to support them! If you want to know more about AiM, contact director Laura Floyd, 843.384.3933.



540 William Hilton Parkway  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

## December NEWSLETTER

### More than 200 People Attended FPC's 65th Anniversary Luncheon

On November 13, a one-service Sunday, Congregational Life hosted a celebratory lunch. Ministry chair Charlotte White organized the multitude of volunteers who made this festive event possible.

