

PRAYERS: Marjorie Claytor, Nan Foster, Joe Gause, Kim Kent, Kathy Killian, Asher Noë-Mellitz, Dick and Barbara Schneider, Patricia Williams

VOLUNTEERS - Sunday, December 2

Greeters: Janice Reiser, Marty Hilyer
Ushers: Shelagh Wirth, Bev Elbert, Tom and Betty Shuler, Daniel Perriero

Attendance Sheets: Barbara Fowler, Johnadee White

Counters: Jim Taylor, John Whitfield

Time With the Children: Minister

Children's Church: Kitsie Miller

Sound: Ken Watkins

Nursery: Amy Schwartz

VOLUNTEERS - Sunday, December 9

Greeters: Mark and Marion Watson-Wishart, Bev Elbert, Beverly Hudson

Ushers: Ron Kesterson, Frank Sheppard, Mark Wishart, Marion Watson-Wishart, Melanie Mixon

Attendance Sheets: Mary Jane and Heyward Stuckey, Martha Hallbick

Counters: Jim Wilhide, Shelagh Wirth

Time With the Children: Jean Mandeville

Children's Church: Linda Floyd

Sound: Greg Mixon

Nursery: Amy Schwartz

Acolyte: Josie Werner

STAFF

Senior Pastor:

The Rev. Jana Creighton - jana@sopc.net

Parish Associate:

The Rev. Alice A. Odell - alice@sopc.net

Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington

Office Manager: Mrs. Criss Gray - socp@sopc.net

Children/Youth Director:

Miss Michaela Craven - michaela@sopc.net

Volunteer Finance Administrator:

Mrs. Sharon Staton, sharon@sopc.net

Building Superintendent: Mr. Karl Thompson

Accompanist: Mrs. Sharon Watkins

Nursery Coordinator: Amy Schwartz

SESSION MEMBERS

2019: Pat Byrne - Congreg. Care Chair

Marty Hilyer - Missions

Kathy Keane - Christian Education Chair

Jim Taylor - Good News Chair

Jim Wilhide - Clerk of Session

2020: Jeanne LeBoeuf - Christian Education

Tish Lowe - Missions Chair

Kathryn Morganelli - Worship Chair

Jack Noë - Good News

Mark Wishart - Fellowship

2021: Richard Brinkley - Administration

Linda Floyd - Worship

Fred Holbrook - Administration Chair

Melanie Mixon - Good News

John Whitfield - Missions

Shelagh Wirth - Building/Grounds Chair

Trustees: Janice Reiser, Lucretia Seigler

Treasurer: Hal Bowman

THIS WEEK AT SOPC

Sunday, December 2

9:45am Sunday School*
11:00am Worship Service*
12:15pm Covenant Ringers
5:30pm Bootcamp*
6:00pm Adult Christmas Party

Monday, December 3

10:30am Bible Study
4:00pm Congreg. Care & Christian Ed.
5:30pm Good News, B&G, Worship, Administration, Missions
6:30pm Ministry Chairs
7:15pm Fellowship

Tuesday, December 4

10:30am Grief Support
4:30pm CT meeting

Wednesday, December 5

12:15pm Chair YOGA
6:30pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 7

6:45am Lanterns
Fellowship Class Christmas Party

Saturday, December 8

9:00am Advent Adventure

Sunday, December 9

9:45am Sunday School*
11:00am Worship Service*
5:30pm Bootcamp/JAM/Confirm

CONNECTION CORNER:

Seven Oaks would love to help you deepen your faith or share how you can become part of our church family.

We welcome you to speak with a Pastor after worship.

We also have many other ways of communication. If you are not receiving or have access to the various methods please contact the church office.

Realm Connect App - Member contact database

Daily - Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for daily news

Weekly - Friday E-Connect with weekend happenings

Monthly - The Leaf newsletter is mailed each month with ministry news and calendar events.

LIKE US ON...



@sopc_church



sevenoakspc



sevenoakspresbyterianchurch

4 WAYS TO GIVE!

 IN PERSON Offering plate during the worship service	 BY MAIL 530 St. Andrews Rd. Columbia, SC 29210 www.sopc.net	 ONLINE (click on the GIVE menu)	 BY TEXT Text SEVENOAKS to 73256 <i>text rates may apply</i>
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530 St. Andrews Rd Columbia, SC 29210
803-772-1761 - Office Phone or 803-772-1787 - Church Fax



**1st Sunday of Advent
Worship Service
December 2, 2018 - 11:00 a.m.**

Welcome to Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church.
We pray that you will truly experience
God's love and grace as you worship!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP *Arise, Shine*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Jana Creighton and Rev. Alice Odell
(Please sign the Friendship Register)

PRELUDE: *Emmanuel* Michael W. Smith

*GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS: Rev. Jana Creighton

One: We come from a world of darkness

All: Into Christ's world of light.

One: We come from a world of weariness

All: Into God's strength and hope.

One: We come from a slumbering world.

All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.

*HYMN #93: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*MOMENT OF HOLINESS: *Advent is a time of expectation and preparation. On the stars provided, please write a word that symbolizes a place of brokenness and of personal hope for this Advent Season. We will prayerfully and confidentially offer them to the Lord after the sermon, creating our own 'starry starry night'. The children will collect them during the offering.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH - The Light of Hope Banks, Polly and Ellis Robinson

1st Reader: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, so we light the first candle on our Advent wreath; the candle of HOPE.

2nd Reader: Twenty-five centuries ago, in a time not much different than our own, when the Israelites had little hope for the future of their country or their people, the Jewish prophets called to God to come to the people and make things right. They told the people - and us - that a Messiah would come as a new hope in the midst of suffering.

1st Reader: Their prayers were answered with the birth of Jesus, also called Emmanuel, a Hebrew word which means "God is with us."

2nd Reader: Today begins our Advent journey of waiting for the birth of the one who is called the Light of the World and the Hope of the Nations.

1st Reader: As we light the candle of Hope we give thanks for the prophets of today who dare to speak words of hope for liberation, who say "no" to the evil in the world, and who call us to overcome our comfortable fears so we may let go of faulty ways of thinking and doing, and explore new realms of unimagined visions of how things could be.

2nd Reader: Let us pray.

All: So many in your world, Holy God, have lost hope or put their hope in false promises. Sometimes it feels you aren't with us but are far, far away. We pray that you come in to our world again. Be Emmanuel for us so we may notice where you are already present. Enter our hearts to see in new ways the creative power of hope Help us live into your hope so we may be your light shining in the dark places of our world. We pray this in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem and whose return we await. Amen.



LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

All Sing: "O Come O Come Emmanuel"
Verse 1
**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Alice Odell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. At times, we have allowed the world's time to dominate your time. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for you. Forgive us for allowing the world's fears to become our fears. Shine upon us this Advent season so that we may be restored unto you. Guide us into your time. As we call upon your name, hear our prayers and give us life.
(Time for silent confession) - In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM:

In Hope We Wait, Emmanuel
Chancel Choir

Rev. Alice Odell

arr. Doulas Wagner

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

GOSPEL READING:

Luke 21:25-36

MESSAGE:

"Starry Starry Night"

Rev. Jana Creighton



All Sing:

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"
Please join the choir on the Refrain
**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

Rev. Alice Odell

OFFERTORY:

My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout
Chancel Choir

arr. John Bell

*CONGREGATION RESPONSE #606:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SEALING OF THE WORD: The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you
And also with you
Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord

Let us pray together:

God of our salvation, we do not deserve your love and yet you lavish it upon us. Not being content to be apart from us, you came to us in human form, donning flesh and becoming one of us. You are not a God that is removed from our reality but is intimately present in our lives and our struggles.

We lift up to you our thanks for your presence among us. We give thanks for your son, Jesus Christ, the very incarnation of your being on this earth.

We remember how you called your servant Mary to bear your son,
how you called your servant Joseph to accompany her,
how you called the wise men to search and the shepherds to ponder,
how you called John to proclaim and Jesus to be baptized,
how you called Peter and the disciples to follow and serve.

We give thanks for your gifts of grace, and ask that your Holy Spirit would come to bless this sacrament, that we might reside with you and you in us.

In Christ's name we pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Alice Odell

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD **gluten free wafers are wrapped individually and labeled in the communion tray*

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #104:

Oh, Lord How Shall I Meet You

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

O Come To Us

*POSTLUDE:

Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices

Nicolai/arr. David Cherwien

** Please stand in body or in spirit*

Church Announcements

During the Welcome and Announcements please pass the Friendship Books to record your presence here today. You are invited to greet each other with the love of Christ after worship.

Nursery: A nursery is available in building A for ages 0 - 3. If you have any questions please see anyone of our volunteers with an "ASK ME" badge.

A Guest Reception Table is available in the Narthex. If you have any questions please see a volunteer with an "ASK ME" badge.

Hearing devices & large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

Worship CD's of services. Contact the church office, ask a Sound System Volunteer in the balcony, or listen/download to podcast at www.sopc.net/sermons.

Children's Worship: Every Sunday following "A Time with the Children", ages 4-4th grade can either choose to continue to worship with their families, or go to Children's Church. Please pick up children from Building "A". Worship Bags for wiggly children "or adults" ages 4-12 are hanging on the coat rack in the Narthex.

Music Notes: During Advent we wait for Emmanuel. The prelude reminds us that Emmanuel is the wonderful Counselor, mighty God and Prince of Peace. The offertory is known as the Canticle of the Turning, and is a 20th century retelling of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38). The postlude is based on the great hymn, *Sleeper's Wake!* that calls us to prepare ourselves for Christ's return.

Prayers and sympathy: Billy Rawl entered into eternal rest on Friday, November 23rd. A celebration of life service will be in our Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 5th at 2:00 p.m. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall following. Please keep Alida and the Rawl family in your prayers.

Christmas Music Worship Service: Next Sunday, December 9, our worship will be filled with carols and the music of Christmas, as we celebrate *The Promised One*. Our singers, ringers and children's worship teams will bring inspiring anthems, combined with Scripture readings and carol singing, to welcome and worship the newborn King! Invite a friend to worship with you too!

Flowers: The poinsettias this morning in the sanctuary are given by John and Betty Anderson to the glory of God and in loving memory of their daughter Julie Allen Koon, and their fathers JW Leviner and Robert Anderson.

2019 Directories are available in the Narthex.

Advent Devotionals are now available. Please pick up one copy per family. They are in the Narthex as a gift from SOPC. If you would like any additional copies they are \$2 each.

Advent Adventure: K4-5th Grade Dec. 8, 2018 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon - FREE - FUN - Lite Lunch - Crafts - Adventure *If you have a child with special needs that requires accommodations, please contact the office.

Register at vbspro.events/p/events/followthestar

Missions Collections: Canned Hams for Sharing God's Love, pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House & Box Tops for Education for SOES.

Giving Tree: Please look for the Giving Tree in the narthex today and again on Dec. 9 and 16. Our SOPC church family will provide Christmas gifts for the men at Providence Home again this year. These men are striving to improve their lives as they renew their faith. Some are trusting Jesus for the first time as new Christians. Let's show them we care! Our gifts will be delivered in time for Christmas with your help. Please give prayerful consideration to helping with this Christmas project. Thank you.

Christmas Prime Rib Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 9th. Come join us for a delightful meal and musical presentation celebrating the season with your Seven Oaks Friends. Menu includes Prime Rib of Beef w/ Aujus, Roasted Young Turkey (for non-beef lovers), Loaded Baked Potatoes, Stir-Fry Vegetables, Sautéed Mushrooms, Super Greek Salad, Hot Rolls, and Home Made Desserts. Tickets will be sold today. \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 (Children under 4 eat free) and a family cap of \$36 for parents and school age children.

Adult Christmas Party: Our party will be held at the Chestnut Hill Plantation Clubhouse tonight from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert. We will provide a non-alcoholic punch but feel free to bring your favorite adult beverage. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift not to exceed \$10. Mark your calendars and come join us for great food and fellowship.

'Round the Table Sing: Our 6th Annual 'Round the Table Sing will be part of our Christmas Dinner on December 9. Along with great singing and celebrating Jesus' birth, this night will include a special presentation by Barbara Howse-Diemer. Plan to join us now for a merry night of music!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: The Worship Committee has met and conferred that Christmas Eve Worship will be held on Dec. 24 at 5:00 p.m.

- The style and meaning of worship will be intimate and traditional, what you have come to expect on Christmas Eve.
- We listened to feedback from the congregation last year expressing the desire for an earlier worship service to allow for family/visitor dinner time.
- Having an earlier worship service is consistent with the church's interest in opening more doors for the next generations to come to Christ.
- The earlier worship service honors our older congregational members who are limited in late nighttime driving.
- We hope to see you there as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior, Emmanuel.

Worship Team Members:

Kathy Morganelli, Pat Robosky, Linda Floyd, Janice Holbrook, Tara Whitfield, Misty Werner, Lloyd Pilkington

Prayer Vigil: We will have a Prayer Vigil here on Tuesday, Dec. 11th from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Are focus will be our vision and growth here at SOPC for 2019 and beyond.



**2018
ADVENT WORSHIP**

Sunday, Dec. 2 – 1st week of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 9 – 2nd week of Advent
11:00 a.m. Christmas Music Service

Sunday, Dec. 16 – 3rd week of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 23 – 4th week of Advent
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, December 24
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Merry Christmas!