

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 16
9:45am Sunday School*
11:00am Worship Service*
5:30pm Bootcamp/J.A.M./ Confirmation

Monday, December 17
10:30am Bible Study
5:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 19
6:30pm Chancel Choir

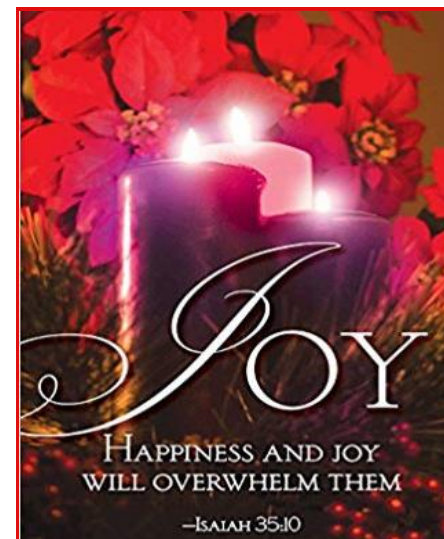
Friday, December 21
6:45am Lanterns

Sunday, December 23
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service - Joy Offering
5:30pm Bootcamp/J.A.M./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.



Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church

**3rd Sunday of Advent Worship Service
December 16, 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

PRELUDE: *Creator of the Stars of Night* Michael McCabe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Arise, Shine*

* GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS: *From "In Wisdom's Path" by Jan Richardson, former PCUSA Moderator*

One: What we Choose, changes us.

All: So in all our choosing, O God, make us wise.

One: Who we love, transforms us.

All: In all our loving, O Christ, make us bold.

One: How we create, remakes us.

All: In all our creating, O Spirit, give us courage.

One: Where we live, reshapes us.

All: In all our living, may we become whole. Amen.

* HYMN #82: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH - The Light of Joy Justin, Misty, Max, Josie Werner

1st Reader: We have lit the candles of Hope and Peace, and relight them now to remind us that our hope is in Christ and that He will come again to bring peace to the world.

2nd Reader: Today begins the third week in our Advent journey, and so we light the third candle, the candle of Joy. In ancient times, the prophet Isaiah said, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined." Many suffer from despair, anxiety, or holiday blues. Others experience only the dark side of human nature. Christ's light has power to overcome all dark places in our society and our souls.

1st Reader: The Psalmist tells us to "make a joyful noise to the Lord, for the Lord is God who made us and whose we are, whose steadfast loves endures forever and faithfulness to all generations."

2nd Reader: Now we light the third candle, the candle of Joy, as we remember the angel's words to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people." We light it so that all who reap blue harvests from seeds of sadness may know the joy of Jesus Christ. We light it in honor of those who show us the joy of following Christ.

1st Reader: Let us pray:

Continued . . .

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
Church Office: 803-772-1761
Church Fax: 803-772-1787

All: God of Good News, as we await your coming, we give you thanks for the joy we have in Christ Jesus. May all who seek such joy find it. For all who have ceased to believe in its possibility, may you work through us to show your joy already present. Come, God of Joy, come. Amen.

ALL SING: "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

<u>Verse 1</u> 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.	<u>Verse 2</u> O Come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.	<u>Verse 6</u> O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Alice Odell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, how many John the Baptists, how many prophets of your light, have we ignored because they were not what we were looking for?
How many times have we ignored voices crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord."
How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief, and turned our backs on your messengers, because they did not speak the message we expected to hear?
Help us hear anew, the cry of those who would lead us to Christ. Tune our ears to your heralds, that we might also testify to your light (Time for silent confession) 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

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *Mission's Grant Presentation to Mission Lexington* Robert Miller

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Elder Judy Barnes

ANTHEM: *People Look East* Eugene Butler
Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 12:2-6*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 4:7-18*

MESSAGE: *"How About A Game of Monopoly"* Rev. Jana Creighton

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN:106: *Prepare the Way O Zion*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Alice Odell

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

OFFERTORY:

Pat - a - pan
Sharon Watkins - Flute

arr. Lloyd Larson

* 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

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN #96: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE: *O Come to Us*

* POSTLUDE:

Noel XII

Louis Claude Daquin

* Please stand in body or in spirit

Volunteers - Sunday, December 16

Greeters: Mary Lou Taylor, Johnadee White,
Jim and Elizabeth Taylor

Ushers: Guy San Fratello, Judy Barnes,
Pete Spearman, Buddy Wilson,
Jacob Schwartz, Finn Creighton,
Sandra Johnson

Attendance Sheets: Robert Miller, Buddy Wilson,
Brenda Turner

Counters: Mark Wishart, Richard Brinkley

Time With the Children: Judy Barnes

Children's Church: Beverly Hudson

Sound: Marty Hilyer

Nursery: Amy Schwartz and Betsy Kent

Acolyte: Sawyer Creighton

Volunteers - Sunday, December 23

Greeters: Barbara Fowler, Willie Hale, Charlotte Swearingen

Ushers: Greg Mixon, Terry Clark, Richard Brinkley,
Monroe Swearingen, Mary Johnson

Attendance Sheets: Mark and Mary Johnson,
Marty Spearman

Counters: Pat Byrne, Linda Floyd

Time With the Children: Tish Lowe

Children's Church: Jean Mandeville

Sound: Marty Hilyer

Nursery: Amy Schwartz

Acolyte: Lucy Park



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.

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.

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

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

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

Music Notes: The prelude is a carol whose opening verse is: *"Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light; O Christ, Redeemer, save us all and hear Thy servants when they call."* *People Look East* is a lively Advent carol. In the history of Christianity, east is the direction we look for the coming Messiah. *Pat-a-pan* is a French carol revolving around two children praising God for the birth of Jesus Christ by playing a drum and flute.

Flowers: The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given by Sharon Staton, to the glory of God, and in thankfulness for Pastor Jana Creighton and Pastor Alice Odell.

Prayers and Sympathy: Janie Richardson, Martha Hallbick's sister, entered into eternal rest on Monday, Dec. 10th. Services were held in Conway, SC on Wednesday, Dec. 12th. Please continue to keep her family in your prayers.

Giving Tree: Please look for the Giving Tree in the narthex today. 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. Let's show them we care! Our gifts will be delivered before Christmas with your help. Please give prayerful consideration to helping with this Christmas project. Thank you.

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

The Worship Committee is looking for men to join our Time With the Children team. A script is provided for you and your turn on the rotation should happen every three (3) months or so. Training is provided. This is a simple and easy way to share God's love with the children of our church. Please contact Janice Holbrook if interested.

Christmas Joy Offering: Next Sunday we will collect the Christmas Joy offering. Donations collected will go toward assisting families of active and retired church workers with unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. It also supports scholarships at Presbyterian related racially ethnic schools and colleges, helping students develop their gifts and find their calling. As we celebrate the good news of great joy, God's love in human form among us, may we open our hearts and may our gifts bear joyful witness to that love!

Year End Contributions: Charitable contributions to SOPC must be received in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 31, 2018, in order for them to be included on the Contributor's 2018 Giving Statement, which can be used for verification for the IRS. If the contribution is mailed, the envelope must be post marked no later than Dec. 31, 2018. These are IRS rules, and SOPC will comply with them. Checks, cash or other property received after Dec. 31, 2018, unless postmarked by that date, will be included in 2019 income and noted on the Contributor's 2019 giving statement. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Staton at sharon@sopc.net.

Giving Envelopes: Please pick up your 2019 giving envelopes in the Narthex! This saves the church office time & resources, if the envelopes do not have to be mailed. Please contact Sharon Staton at sharon@sopc.net if you have any questions.

PRAYERS:

Marjorie Claytor, Nan Foster, Kim Kent, Kathy Killian, Asher Noë - Mellitz, Dick and Barbara Schneider, Patricia Williams.