

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Jana Light Bundrick

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-39
Luke 1:40-56

Bruce Hurley
Rev. Jana Light Bundrick

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Mary Did You Know?"

Laura Crosby
/Arr. Dr Stephen Simmons

MESSAGE

"Sing A Faithful Song"

Rev. Jana Light Bundrick

LITANY FOR THE CONGREGATION

ONE: Darkness was over the world before creation. God called for Light and it was given. Bright, beautiful, warm, powerful. Are you ready to receive the Light?

ALL: We want to be ready.

ONE: Words of praise and community became words of anger and division. God's light shone but humankind covered their faces, hid themselves behind masks of prejudice and indifference. They needed the light, but turned their backs on it. Are you ready to receive the Light?

ALL: We want to be ready.

ONE: Conquest, turmoil, abuse, fear covered the land. Hope was a dimly flickering flame, hidden deep within some hearts, extinguished in others. Darkness was again gaining a foothold in all the lands. Cries were heard "O Lord, how long will you hide your face from us?" But it was not God who was hidden. It was the hearts of the people, hungering and fearful. Are you ready to receive the Light?

ALL: We want to be ready.

ONE: In the fullness of time, God again sent someone who is to be the Light to the world. This someone is God's Son Jesus, who teaches us how to live, how to witness to God's love, and how to serve. This is the true light, which illumines everyone. Are you ready to receive the Light?

ALL: Lord, help us to be ready. We so easily live in the darkness and long for the true Light. Open our eyes, our hearts, our ears, and our spirits. Help us to witness to Your most blessed gift, your Son Jesus Christ. AMEN.

OFFERING

Offerings may be placed in the large wooden boxes with crosses at the main exit of the lobby.
To give online, text Sevenoaks to 73256 or use the SOPC website with this link:
<https://onrealm.org/SevenOaksPresby/-/give/now>

*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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bruce Hurley

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.

*HYMN # 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*ADVENT CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Jana Light Bundrick

*POSTLUDE



DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE
11:00 AM
530 ST. ANDREWS ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29210
803-772-1761; EMAIL: SOPC@SOPC.NET

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jana Light Bundrick

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Texas Presbyterian Foundation

Elder Fred Holbrook

*GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS

ONE: Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us!

ALL: Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most gracious gift, God's Son, Jesus Christ.

ONE: Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming! Tonight the Christ child is born!

ALL: May God's light shine on us, in us and through us that God's glory may be seen. AMEN.

*HYMN # 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*CALL TO CONFESSSION

Bruce Hurley

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It's getting harder and harder to focus on the true meaning of Christmas, the incarnation of God's love in the birth of God's Son Jesus Christ. We are caught in the web of festivities, travel, gifts, and glitter. As we get closer to the big family celebrations and the actual celebration of Christmas, We allow ourselves to be continually drawn in to the demands of others, leaving little or no time for ourselves, our families, and especially for You, gracious God. Forgive us. You are all too familiar with our reasons and excuses for what is happening. Help us to make some changes in our lives and our focus, so that this time of celebration may have the deepest sense of joy and purpose, not just the rush and clamor of yet another holiday season that disappears all too quickly. Keep us focused on the eternal "yes" response to your call to us, to live our lives as those who would joyfully serve You. Heal and comfort us, Lord, this day and always. For we ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Elder Fred & Janice Holbrook

*HYMN # 88

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

V 1-4

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bruce Hurley

We invite children ages 4k - 4th grade to sit in the "Children's Corner" after the "Children's Message." One Adult will be sitting with the children, and age appropriate activities will be provided for children that go along with worship. Parents will pick up their children after the service.

Copyright Notices:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" #212086 Type: Music; First Line: O come, all ye faithful (c) 1983 Agape, a div. of Hope Publishing Company in Ready to Ring #1352 Contributors: Frances L Callahan Tune: (c) 1983 Agape, a div. of Hope Publishing Company One License #194541

*Please stand in body or in spirit.





Sunday, December 24

Counters: Melanie Mixon, Sharon Staton
 Usher: Fred Holbrook
 Greeters: Tom & Betty Shuler
 Acolyte: Ellis Robinson
 Children's Message: Melanie Mixon

Sunday, December 31

Counters: Elizabeth & Jim Taylor
 Usher: Ron Kesterson
 Greeters: Ben & Dallene Smith
 Acolyte: Ellis Robinson
 Children's Message: Melanie Mixon

THE STAFF OF SOPC

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jana Light Bundrick
jana@sopc.net
Temporary Office Administrator:
 Haley Thompson sopc@sopc.net
Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Stephen Simmons
Accompanist: Mrs. Sharon Watkins
Building Superintendent: Mr. Karl Thompson
kthompsonsc@yahoo.com
Volunteer Financial Administrator:
 Mrs. Sharon Staton sharon@sopc.net
Nursery Coordinator: Mrs. Amy Schwartz

SESSION MEMBERS

* indicates chair
Clerk of Session: Polly Robinson
Class of 2024:
 Hal Bowman - Administration
 John Carter - Buildings & Grounds*
Class of 2025:
 Fred Holbrook - Administration*
 Ed Keelen - Reshape Adapting Group*
 Sharon Staton - Missions*
 Sharon Watkins - Worship*
Class of 2026
 Liz Harris - Fellowship
 Kathy Keane - Christian Ed*
 Banks Robinson - Fellowship*
Trustees: Sue Kesterson, Frank Sheppard,
 Carol Griffith
Treasurer: Hal Bowman
Presbyterian Women Moderator (SOPW):
 Mary Johnson

**OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Thursday - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

THIS WEEK AT SOPC

Sunday, December 24

11:00 am - 3:00 pm - Liberty Church - Fellowship Hall
 11:00 am - Worship
 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l
 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm - Love Revolution - Pavilion
 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Christmas Eve Communion Service

Monday, December 25

CHRISTMAS
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA
 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm - Mision Cristiana Elm Int'l - Building B

Tuesday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA

Wednesday, December 27

5:45 pm - 7:45 pm - NAMI - Pavilion
 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Choir
 7:30 am - 8:30 pm - NANA

Thursday, December 28

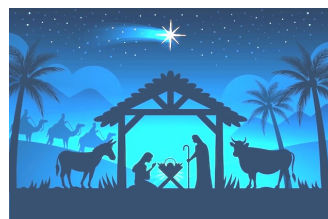
7:00 pm - Liberty Church - Fellowship Hall





Friday, December 29

OFFICE CLOSED
 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l

Saturday, December 30

Stay connected! If you would like to receive emails and/or texts from SOPC, please text the letters SOPC to the number 84576.

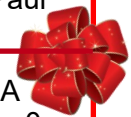


4 WAYS TO GIVE!			
 IN PERSON	 BY MAIL	 ONLINE	 BY TEXT
Offering baskets	530 St. Andrews Rd. Columbia, SC 29210	Sopc.net	Text 73256 to SEVENOAKS text rates may apply



WELCOME

Flowers – The two large poinsettias in the sanctuary are given by Sharon Staton, to the glory of God, and in honor of her mother, Joan Benson, and in memory of her father, Paul Benson.



Nursery: A nursery is available in Building A during worship and Sunday School for ages 0 - 4. If you have any questions, please see an usher for help.

Worship Bags: Parents can pick up worship bags in the Children's Corner before the worship service, for ages 4 years old– 5th grade. *(Sanctuary near the restrooms)*

Guests are invited to stop by the guest table in the narthex/lobby. Please take a goody bag with you as a reminder of God's love. Also, please leave your information for us on the yellow card. Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Masked and Socially Distanced Seating: To help decrease the spread of Covid at Seven Oaks, please consider wearing a mask during worship. Also, there are two pews marked as reserved in the sanctuary to the far right front close to the side exit. Masks are available in the narthex/lobby.

December Word of the Month:



In our continued prayers...

Al Charles	Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz
Barbara Fowler	Nueva Paz
Barry Shatzer	Daniel and Elizabeth Turk (Missionaries)
Donna Moore	
Ed Keelen	
Fran and Jeffrey Brannon	
Ira Leon	Long Term Care - Dave, Rich & Sam Allen, Edith Blanchett, Kathie Cashion, Bobby Sellars (Father of Paul Sellars, and Patricia Williams.
Joe and Myrna Gause	
Jim Mullins	
Kirk Wirth	
Nancy Taber	
Our Ukraine Family	
Tara and John Whitfield	



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for Love Revolution in the Pavilion today from **3:30 pm to 5:00 pm**. Please help us serve food to our neighbors in need!

Merry Christmas from our family to yours! May the grace of God shine on you this season.

Childcare will be available during this morning and evening Christmas Eve services.

Please let us know if you will need a ride for our **Christmas Eve Service tonight at 5:30 pm**. Thank you!



NO YOUTH TONIGHT. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We will meet again on January 7 at SOPC and dinner will be provided. We will have a study of Epiphany.

The Fellowship Sunday School Class is studying "Jesus, The God Who Knows Your Name." Join us in the **Fellowship Classroom**, with fellowship starting at **9:30 am** and the lesson beginning at **10:00 am**. Our class will not meet **today - Dec 24th**.

NOTE: The Roads to Faith Sunday School Class will not meet on today Christmas Eve, December 24.

The Christmas Joy Offering extends a helping hand to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. Additionally, it fosters the growth of future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges, empowering communities of color. Your gift helps ensure that Ministry of all ages can meet their needs to continue serving God. Please give **today and next Sunday** during worship and online.

Keeping the Narthex Door Closed: Please be advised that if you are using the Narthex door – the one closest to the office building– it is important to ensure that it is completely closed. Sometimes the doors don't fully catch, so please double-check. Thank you for your cooperation!

Ladies, the PW are seeking nominations to honor a member of the congregation in 2024. The honor can be given to a woman or man as long as they are a member of the PC USA. Nominations should be submitted to **Shelagh Wirth** at swirth1949@gmail.com by **January 31, 2024**, along with a nominee bio.

The office will be closed Tuesday, December 26.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24 - 5:30 pm - Christmas Eve Communion Night Service
December 25 - Christmas Day
December 26 - Office Closed
December 31 - New Year's Eve
January 1 - Happy New Year's - Office Closed
January 6 - Epiphany

