

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Contact Natalie Raygor (natalie@firstonthird.org) for more information.

Nursery (infant through two-years-old) Loving care is provided during the Sunday School hour and Worship Services.

Worship and Wonder (three-years-old through 2nd grade): Children are invited to come forward during Children's Time in the service, place their offerings in the plate, enjoy a short message and prayer with the minister, then go to Room 208 for Worship and Wonder for their worship service.

Growing in Grace Children's Sunday School Class – (three-years-old through 5th grade)
Meets at 9am in the Grace Space, at the foot of the stairway to Gilmour Hall.

Top Dogs (3rd-5th grade) – Stay tuned for exciting events in 2026!

Youth Group (6th-12th grade) - Next meeting is Sunday, January 4th @ 5:30pm. Youth will have fun activities while parents attend the Parent Ski Trip meeting in Gilmour Hall.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES — 9AM SUNDAYS

“Bible 101” meets in Room 101. Bible 101 studies and discusses the scripture that will be preached that morning. All are welcome. Good discussion group.

Journey Class meets in Room 303: January 11-January 18, 2026: *Sacred Journeys* by Bruce Feiler

The Village Class meets in the Session Room. Beginning January 4th, the Village Class begins a new book! *Woven* by Meredith Miller explores how parents and grandparents can help children connect with a loving God.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle One (service): Second Monday of the month @ 6pm off campus.

Circle Two (book study): Second Monday of the month @ 11:30am in the Gathering Place

Circle Three (book study): Second Monday of the month @ 10:30am in Gilmour Hall

Circle Four (fellowship): Second Monday of the month in the evening (off campus).

Please contact Mary Grigg at marygfountain@gmail.com or text to 910-617-2934 for more information.

Circle Five (book study): Second Monday of the month @ 10am in Library or off campus

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES/FELLOWSHIP

Knitting Ministry: Second Wednesday of the month @ 1:30pm in The Ladies' Parlor

Women on Wednesdays: First and Third Wednesdays of the month @ 10:30am in the Session Room.

Contact the FPC office for more details. Dates and times subject to change due to holidays and events.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

First Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry congregation. If you would like to receive support from a **Stephen Minister**, please call one of our pastors at 910-762-6688.

ONLINE GIVING

Use this QR code to give securely to the general fund. Looking for other ways to give? Visit the website, firstonthird.org/give, for more information.



REALM

We are using this app to streamline our church communications, making it easier to sign up for events and opportunities! Please reach out to Melissa (melissa@firstonthird.org) in the office or call the office at 910-762-6688 for assistance .

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, 1/4:

9:00am	Sunday School Classes	Various rooms
10:00am	Combined Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:30pm	Youth Group & Parent Ski Trip Meeting	Gilmour Hall

Monday, 1/5:

6:00pm	Boy Scouts	Boney Hall
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Tuesday, 1/6: Epiphany

No events scheduled

Wednesday, 1/7:

10:30am	Women on Wednesdays	Session Room
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Thursday, 1/8:

7:45am	Men's Bible and Breakfast	Cape Fear Club
5:30pm	Blended Worship Band Rehearsal	Gilmour Hall
7:15pm	Choir Practice	Choir Room

Friday, 1/9:

No events scheduled. Office closes at 3pm.

Saturday, 1/10:

Church Closed

Sunday, 1/11:

9:00am	Sunday School Classes	Various rooms
	Donuts with Davis	Room 305
10:00am	Combined Worship Service	Sanctuary
	Ordination/Installation of Officers	Sanctuary
5:00pm	Music at First: Beverly Andrews	Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 12th:	10am Circle Five: Library
	10:30am Circle Three: Gathering Place
	11:30am Circle Two: Gilmour Hall
	6:00pm Circle One: 2909 Hydrangea Place

Wednesday, January 14th:	1:30pm Knitting Ministry: Parlor
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As we head into a new year, please consider your God given gifts and how you can help serve the Lord and our church.

Do you enjoy children or youth? Nursery, Worship & Wonder, Children's Sunday School, VBS, and Youth Ministry have opportunities available.

Do you enjoy brightening the days of others? Congregational Care, Community Service, or Domestic and Global Mission would be a great fit!

Are you a people person? Do you like to welcome others as they walk through the doors? Ushers and Communion Servers would be just the spot for you!

Do you like to assist in growing a congregation with fun and new ideas? Growth and Development is the place for you.

Do you have mad baking/cooking skills or a penchant for planning events? Well, come on over to Fellowship for a grand time!

Have you ever thought about learning to knit? Head over to the Knitting Ministry for a yarn of a time!

Volunteering is a truly rewarding experience and strengthens your relationships within the church community. We would love to let your light shine bright at FPC, so please reach out to Laura Tingelstad at laura@firstonthird.org or call 910-762-6688 x130 for more information about upcoming opportunities to serve in 2026!

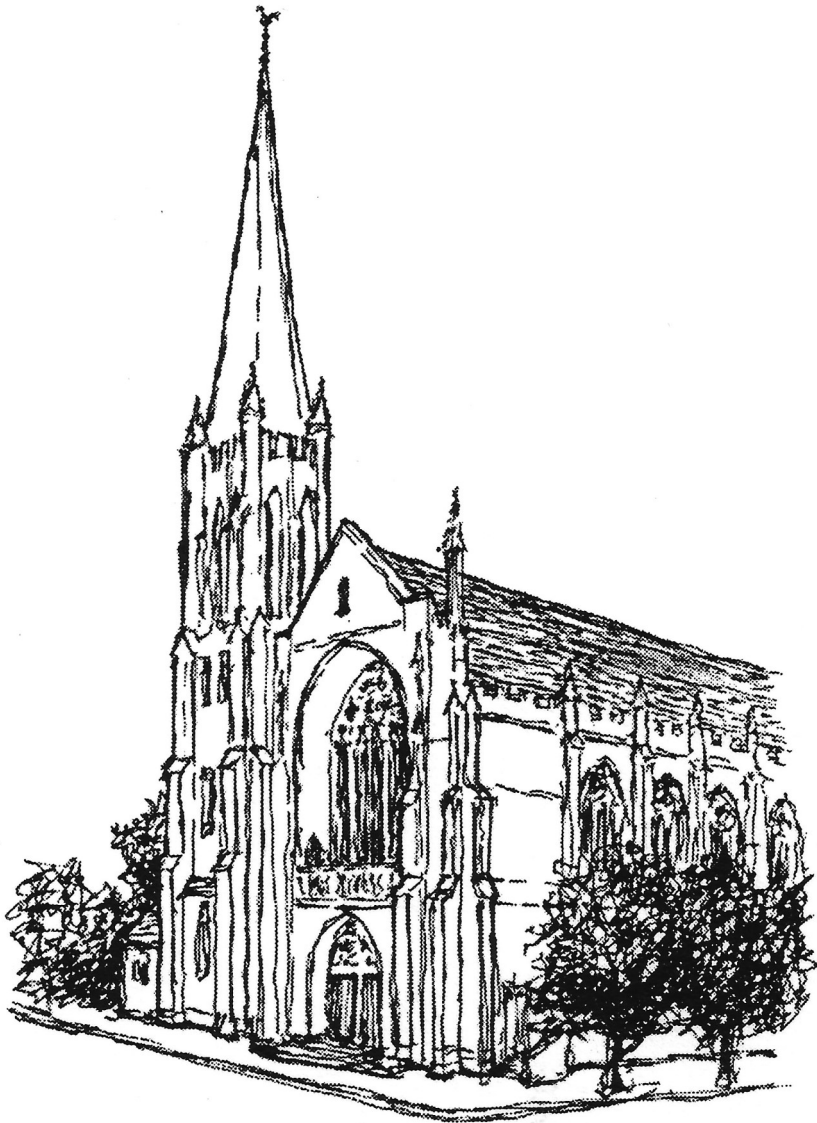


First Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith and Love

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026



“May all the blessings of the Lord
be yours in abundance in the
New Year”.

Isaiah 43:19

125 S. 3rd Street

Wilmington, NC 28401
www.firstonthird.org

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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

The music of the Opening Voluntary draws us from the outside world into the presence of God. In preparation for worship, you are invited to use this time for prayerful reflection.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Variations on In Dulce Jubilo John Behnke

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Please pass the friendship register down the row for each person to sign. Visitors, we are grateful you are here this morning to worship with us. We invite you to mark the visitor box and make sure to collect a blue Welcome Gift Bag from the Gathering Place as you exit today. Thank you for visiting FPC!]

CALL TO WORSHIP

O sing to the Lord a new song,
For the true light has come into the world!
Break forth into singing,
For in Christ is life!
The Word has become flesh and lives among us,
And we have seen God’s glory, full of grace and truth!

+ HYMN 401

Here in This Place GATHER US IN

CALL TO CONFESSION

The life of faith is not only being faithful to God.
It is knowing God is faithful to us.
Trusting that God will never turn away from us,
let us tell the truth about our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in Christ you were born a humble child, love-made-flesh, God-with-us. Forgive us when we fail to follow in your way in humility, love, and peace. Free us to see your light reflecting in the faces of friends and family, neighbors and strangers, enemies and friends, and make us shine forth with your love. Give us courage to witness your glory and testify to your good news. Give us grace to admit our shortcomings and still point to you. Give us strength to follow you, wherever you might lead...(time for silent prayer)
In the strong and merciful name of Christ we pray... Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is nothing and no one
that is too far gone for God to redeem.
Let us all believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

[+You are invited to stand. For each hymn, please stand as the last line of the introduction is played.]

+GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX
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. Amen.

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Children are invited to come forward, place their offerings in the plate, have a short message and prayer with the minister, then go to Room 208 for their worship service called Worship and Wonder.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

John 1: 1-14
Pew Bible, NT p. 91

SERMON

“Testify to the Light“

Natalie Raygor

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

+ HYMN 108

Of the Father’s Love Begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - 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.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Stay With Us Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening, night is falling.
Jesus Christ, the world’s true light! Shine so the darkness cannot over come it! Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory.

+ DOXOLOGY

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.

WE GO IN GOD’S NAME

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Today we celebrate the Lord’s Supper by *intinction*, which means “dipping.” All are invited to come forward by rows, as ushers direct, to receive a piece of bread (“The body of Christ, broken for you”) and to dip it lightly into the cup (“The blood of Christ shed for you”). There are many appropriate responses, including “Thanks be to God,” “Amen,” or just prayerful silence. Through the grace of Baptism, Christ welcomes all to the table. There is a single serve gluten free option at each station. For those who are unable to come forward, please alert an usher, who will make sure you are served in your seat. The prayer at the Table includes The Lord’s Prayer, which can be found on page 35 of the hymnal.

+ HYMN 136

Go Tell It on the Mountain

+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

We Three Kings Gordon Young

Leading in Worship	
Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor	Natalie Raygor, Associate Pastor
Martha Hayes, Organist	Benjamin Horrell, Choir Director
Jim Morgan, Piano	FPC Choir

THANK YOU to all of you who have joined us for worship this Sunday, here and at home. We hope that you find your experience of worship to be uplifting and meaningful. Any usher (designated with a name tag) will be glad to assist you and answer your questions. If you need a large print copy of today’s bulletin and hymns, please notify an usher. A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. If you would, please let us know you were here with us by signing the Friendship Register in the pews or by emailing our church office at hello@firstonthird.org.

